Daily Report

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Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-209
Friday
28 October 1988

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-209 *28 October 1988*

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LD2810145188 [Editorial Report]

Palestinian Affairs

Arrests—Thirteen PFLP members accused of planning an "attack abroad" were arrested in West Germany 27 October, DPA reported. They were found with weapons and explosives.

In Sudan, five Palestinians were sentenced to death for their part in the May bombing of a Khartoum hotel, MENA reported.

Assassination Plan—Palestinian sources close to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said the Israeli Inner Cabinet has made plans to assassinate him in an operation similar to the one that killed Khalil al-Wazir, the UAE paper AL-ITTIHAD reported.

The sources said a Mosad cell is currently in the Middle East "lying in wait" to assassinate 'Arafat during one of his many trips.

Arab Relations—Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, welcomed Jordanian-Iraqi-Egyptian-Palestinian coordination in countering Israeli political moves after the elections, the Dubayy paper AL-BAYAN reported.

Jordan's King Husayn expressed satisfaction with the Aqaba talks and said Jordan will support any Palestinian stand, but he said discussion of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation is "premature," according to PETRA-JNA, citing an interview with the London paper AL-HAYAH.

PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat denounced Syria in an interview with INA for inflaming tension east of Sidon and around Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon. He also stressed the "urgent" need to convene an emergency summit in Baghdad.

Lebanon

Senior Fatah leader Mustafa Dawud died in the 26 October Israeli raid on Al-Miyah Wa Miyah, according to security sources cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. The radio also reported that clashes continued east of Sidon.

The Islamic resistance announced that it killed one South Lebanese Army soldier and wounded four in an explosion on the Sujud road, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported.

Radio Free Lebanon reported that violent clashes broke out 27 October in the southern suburbs of Beirut between the Amal Movement and Hizballah.

In other developments, Shiite theologian Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah disclosed that the people holding the foreign hostages now feel that the hostage question should be used to "resolve some of the problems of the mujahidin in the region."

In an interview with an Arabic news agency cited by Voice of the Mountain radio, he also said secret contacts are being held between the Islamic resistance and Palestinians in the occupied territories with the aim of escalating the confrontation against Israel.

Tehran television reported that Fadlallah met Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and discussed the current problems in Lebanon.

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad received Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati 28 October, Damascus radio reported. They discussed bilateral relations, current regional issues, and the latest developments in Lebanon, according to IRNA.

President al-Asad, in a speech broadcast by Damascus television, said Syria will spare no effort to rescue Lebanon from its current crisis, while Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'Ja', in a 28 October REUTER interview, vowed to end Syrian involvement in Lebanese affairs, saying Syria's presence is Lebanon's principal problem.

Israel

A 16-year-old youth was killed and three people were wounded in disturbances in Gaza 27 October, Jerusalem radio reported, while nine people were wounded in West Bank riots.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin alliance leader Burhanuddin Rabbani said the USSR has sent high-altitude bombers and a "new type of jet" to Afghanistan and fortified airfields with long-range artillery, AFP reported. He said the Soviet Air Force has dropped thousands of mines in Herat Province, and warned that the resistance "will not be silent" on this change in Soviet policy.

Diplomatic sources cited by AFP said Rabbani nevertheless announced the opposition's readiness to meet Yuliy Vorontsov "in Peshawar or elsewhere" to hold direct talks but said they would only meet him in his capacity as Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister .

Meanwhile, President Najibullah, in a speech to an international Islamic gathering in Kabul, reiterated his government's readiness to meet with the opposition, BAKHTAR reported.

He said the government has already made concessions, including giving up a monopoly on power and evacuating a number of regions for the sake of opposition groups who wanted to resettle there.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Maghreb Political Commission Session Begins

LD2710164788 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Excerpts] This morning the Arab Maghreb states' Grand Political Commission session began at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in Rabat. Delegations from the five states are participating, that is, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Mauritania, and Morocco.

The meeting will assess the achievements and recommendations of the various sectors' specialized commissions which met in various Arab Maghreb capitals. Our correspondent Abdelaziz [word indistinct] gives the details:

[Abdelaziz] In their remarks during the opening session the five delegation heads praised the subcommissions' sessions which outlined the developments and steps needed to build the great Arab Maghreb. They also affirmed their determination to achieve this on strong foundations, according to the regional states leaders' aspirations and their desire for unity and solidarity. Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Abdelatif Filali, who led the opening session, focused in his speech on the strong ties of language, religion, and territorial affiliation between the peoples and states of the Arab Maghreb.

His excellency the minister added these factors should direct the correct course needed to face all the challenges dictated by current circumstances, that is, the adoption of a regional bloc and grouping policy in order to play an important international role. The foreign affairs and cooperation minister highlighted the enormous responsibilities placed on the delegations by the five countries' leaders:

[Begin Filali recording] Our meeting in Rabat today proves again our leaders' and people's determination to continue efforts to build this community on strong foundations. I have no doubt that everyone of us appreciates the value of the historical responsibility placed on us by our states' leaders. Consequently, we must propose to them an exemplary formula for laying the foundations of the Maghreban community, either at the structural level or in the general coordination of our policies and our economic, cultural and social systems.

O brothers, our continuous work in either this Political Commission or in others corresponds to our peoples' and leaders' wishes and the aspirations for which our predecessors died fighting against colonialism in various Maghreb states. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, Political Bureau member and Algeria's FLN Permanent Secretariat head, then spoke, stressing his country's continuous work to build an integrated community, thereby ensuring a positive role on the Arab, Islamic, African, and Mediterranean levels:

[Begin Messaadia recording] Through this work we want to build a civilized and developed society; a society which is economically, socially, and culturally sound and thus able to to contribute to man's general development. [end recording]

Then Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Bacouche spoke about the relaxation in atmosphere and the peoples' delight at following the Arab Maghreb leaders' Algiers summit. He said that according to the peoples' will the regional countries desire unity, particularly as the Arab Maghreb has innumerable unifying factors:

[Begin Baccouche recording] I must briefly remind everyone of our task. When our leaders met in Algiers they clearly and strongly stressed that the Arab Maghreb constitutes an entity. In stressing this they responded to our peoples' deep aspirations for unity and cohesion. [end recording]

Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the Libyan revolution leadership, then took the floor. He reviewed the Maghreb's political and popular components and the desire for unity in the Maghreb. He also expressed his appreciation of the five Maghreban commissions' efforts, highlighting the capacity to achieve Arab Maghreb unity. He said there is nothing lacking except political will. [passage omitted]

Mauritanian Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Colonel Mohamed Sidina Ould Sidya described today's meeting as highly significant because it embodies political will in response to regional aspirations. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile the Commission continues in closed session.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Syrian 'Criminal Role,' Other Issues

JN2710222188 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1942 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has denounced the sectarian Syrian regime's determination to continue its conspiratorial role against our Palestinian Arab people and their legitimate aspirations for self-determination.

In an interview he gave yesterday to INA, brother leader Abu 'Ammar said that the sectarian Syrian regime continues to inflame battles to the east of Sidon and around the Palestinian camps in Southern Lebanon at the time

when the Zionist troops continue their air raids and bombardment and rocket attacks, from land and sea, against Lebanese villages and Palestinian camps.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar added: This happens according to an arrangement planned within the conspiracy, which targets the Palestinian presence in Lebanon and the honorable Lebanese national forces, particularly in southern Lebanon. Things have reached the extent that Israeli warplanes passed to strike against Palestinians and Lebanese before the eyes of the Syrian regime's forces which did not lift a finger.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar said the command of the Syrian regime forces in Lebanon set up an operation room under orders from [Syrian Chief of Staff] General Hikmat al-Shihabi to command a military operation against the city of Sidon and the surrounding camps. Units of the 5th Division's armored brigade have practically taken positions on the road to Sidon and Tyre. The Syrian division, under the command of Tawfiq Jallud, prepared itself to back this crime.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar pointed out that a detailed memorandum was submitted to the Arab League about the Syrian regime's criminal role, which comes at the time when a Zionist armored brigade thrust into the border strip in preparation for a military operation against the Palestinian presence under the shadow of a Syrian siege against the city of Sidon.

Regarding the PNC emergency session, brother leader Abu 'Ammar said: It will discuss the options presented before the Palestinian struggle under the shadow of the escalation in our people's blessed uprising in the occupied territories and Jordan's disengagement of its relations with the Palestinian Bank.

It will concentrate on the international conference as one of the presented Palestinian options to provide a just and comprehensive solution in the Middle East under the shadow of international detente, whose effects reflected on different parts of the world but did not include the region in general, and the Palestinian question in particular.

On the Aqaba and Baghdad minisummits, brother leader Abu 'Ammar said: The two minisummits came to discuss the aspects of the Palestinian stand and the uprising and the need to support it and secure its continuation with all means. They also came to coordinate Arab stands to face all developments and probabilities and to coordinate efforts in the international arena, including the affirmation of the need to quickly convene an international conference, which will be based on an advanced, united Arab stand that puts the ball in the court of the big powers and superpowers, and under the shadow of a new state of affairs brought about by the glorious victory achieved by Iraq on the western gate.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar said: The call to convene an emergency summit in Baghdad is a subject that has urgent dimensions.

Regarding the wide international contacts he held recently, brother leader Abu 'Ammar said: My contacts on both Arab and international levels which included African, Asian, and European leaderships—beginning with India and Indonesia and including the PRC, the European Parliament, the Soviet Union, and the Latin American states—have affirmed the international unanimity to support the Palestinian alternatives in this historic turning point. The only exception was the stand of the U.S. Administration, which still views the Palestinian cause from an Israeli perspective.

Al-Hasan: Jordan, PLO Agree on Confederation

JN2710184288 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 26 Oct 88 p 1

[Text] Amman—Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, has welcomed the establishment of Jordanian-Iraqi-Egyptian-Palestinian coordination to counter the political effort of the results of the Israeli Knesset elections, whether it brings Shamir or Peres to the government.

In a meeting he held for Fatah cadres in Jordan, Al-Hasan said that through Egyptian mediation the Aqaba meeting, held among Jordanian King Husayn, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, and Yasir 'Arafat, resulted in a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement about the formation of a joint delegation to an international conference and the building of a confederation between the Jordanian and future Palestinian states.

'Sources' on Israeli Plan to Assassinate 'Arafat

JN2710171288 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 26 Oct 88 p 6

[By 'Atif 'Awdah]

[Text] Rabat—Palestinian sources close to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat have disclosed that Israel has formed a special command comprising one general and four colonels to draw up a plan for assassinating the PLO chairman. A close aide to 'Arafat said the decision to assassinate Abu 'Ammar was made during a meeting held by the Israeli Inner Cabinet. He added a unanimous decision to carry out an operation similar to that of assassinating Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], Fatah's second in command, was reached during that meeting.

According to the information available to the PLO, a cell of the Israeli intelligence organ (the Mosad) supplied with forged Arab passports is currently present in the Middle East. The information also says this cell is lying in wait to hunt down 'Arafat or "the old man," as the Palestinians call him, during one of his many trips despite the stringent security measures taken to protect his person.

A news report prepared by AL-ITTIHAD states that the Palestinians accompanying 'Arafat are taking amazing security measures without hindering the work of their leader, whether this work pertains to his meetings with journalists or to his meetings with Palestinians who come just to say hello.

However, these invisible measures are carried out with meticulousness. For instance, it may happen that 'Arafat calls for holding a meeting in Tunis. All those concerned are called and the meeting is really held while 'Arafat is on his way to visit a certain capital either on an ordinary flight or aboard a special plane whose crew is replaced at the last moment.

One of these bodyguards said 'Arafat's destination is most often unknown until his plane reaches the airport. The plane's destination is changed more than once to other locations while the plane is in midflight. Thus, the bodyguard adds, instead of reaching East Europe you find yourself in the PRC or Baghdad.

When 'Arafat talks about the issue of security, he usually laughs and says: "Man's life is in the hand of God" [Arabic proverb], while his mind is preoccupied with the latest minute details of the security measures to be taken on land and in the air.

Another 'Arafat bodyguard recalls the days of the Beirut siege and says 'Arafat used to change his place 1 minute immediately after his meeting with Western journalists or with a U.S. TV team. He adds Israeli warplanes used to come minutes later to bomb the place.

One of the examples cited to prove his keen security sense pertains to What 'Arafat said prior to the Israeli raid against Hammam al-Shatt in Tunis. On that day, 'Arafat was on a short visit to Morocco. During that visit, a discussion was held on an Israeli plan to hit the PLO Sanaa headquarters. Then, 'Arafat intervened and said the coming strike would be in Tunis.

Villagers Urged To Punish 'Despicable Agent'

JN2710202888 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1911 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Unattributed appeal]

[Text] To our brave people in Al-'Uzayziyah [not further identified], to the valiant men of Al-'Uzayziyah. We speak to you today because of our trust in you. We are proud of your struggle, being always a symbol of manhood, sincerity, and strong national allegiance. O people of Al-'Uzayziyah, you have been the best example during the Husan battle where you offered great martyrs.

We speak to you today on a matter which you are capable of carrying out with your strong arms, determination, and your great credibility. It is the matter of the agent 'Ali Abu Taha, alias Abu Bakr. He is the agent who fled with enemy assistance to the Za'tarah settlement in the land of the Al-Ta'amirah tribes after obtaining thousands of shekels and a red Subaru car from the Zionists.

He is trying these days to lie in wait for you. It is you who should strike him and inflict a harsh punishment on him because of his crimes against the people and the homeland.

We are fully certain nothing will hinder the brave Al-'Uzayziyah youths from tracking down this despicable agent. No one will escape the hands of the people and the revolution. Who causes harm to his people, nation, and homeland will inevitably meet his impending doom at the hands of the people.

Greetings to you, O brave Al-'Uzayziyah youths. Revolution until victory.

'Palestinian Uprising Radio' Begins Transmission

NC2610173288 Valletta Voice of the Mediterranean in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] The Palestinian uprising radio has begun official transmission from Italy for 1 hour daily. The official transmission, run by leftist independent parties, follows a successful experimental transmission on Sunday from the popular radio station.

Journalists, peace societies, political parties, intellectuals, and the Palestinian Student Union in Italy participate in preparing the material for the 1-hour radio program on the Palestinian uprising.

OPEC Affairs

Madrid Meeting Dealing With 'Real Problems'

PM2710153588 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Oct 88 p1

[Unattributed report: "Senior OPEC Source Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: No Agreement Without All 13 States; Signs Positive"]

[Excerpt] Madrid, London—A highly-placed source on OPEC's two ministerial committees on strategy and prices, now meeting in Madrid, has stressed that the vast majority of the ministers are opposed to giving concessions to certain states at the expense of other member states.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the source described this as a positive sign, noting a positive atmosphere has unexpectedly prevailed at the Madrid meeting, where the emphasis is on real problems such as Iraq's inclusion in the quota and tariffs system and the appropriateness or otherwise of the proposed production ceiling.

The source said all 13 states must be parties to any agreement, otherwise no agreement would be effective and no agreement would fulfill the desire for a balanced and stable market.

The source pointed out the issues raised are being discussed with clarity, but that hasty agreement is inadvisable and time is needed. It is hoped, he said, that some progress will be achieved at the Madrid meeting which is expected to end today.

He added: The organization will not agree to exclude Iraq from any new production agreement, particularly now that the Iraq-Iran war is at an end and everyone realizes that OPEC is one organization consisting of 13 not 12 members.

Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam al-Jalabi said he was optimistic about the possibility of OPEC's reaching an agreement that would bring Iraq back into the quota system, but he did not give any dates.

OPEC Secretary General Dr Subroto did not rule out the possibility of an emergency meeting of all 13 OPEC members. He said: "We feel there is need for more than one meeting. OPEC must hold more talks to reach a new agreement on production quotas that would boost world oil prices." [passage omitted]

Algeria

Students Demand Amnesty for Sentenced Rioters

LD2710120888 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] In Algeria, some 3,000 students gathered yesterday at the Bab Ezzouar University near Algiers to demand an amnesty for people who received sentences following the riots. The Algerian press reported a strike for the first time yesterday. The strike was launched at the beginning of the week at a paper production enterprise employing 640 people in the suburbs of Algiers.

Bendjedid Meets Maghreb Commission Delegations

LD2710122488 Algiers APS in English 1120 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Algiers, 27 Oct (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid audienced on Wednesday [26 October] members of the Algerian delegation which is to take part in the works of the Maghreban commission due to be held Rabat.

The Algerian delegation led by Mohamed Cherif Messaadia head of the CC Permanent Secretariat, includes the foreign affairs, home and finance ministers as well as the energy, chemical and petrochemical industries minister and the minister of high teaching.

Works of this commission follows up the meeting of the Maghreban Commission held on last July in Algiers and the works of the specialized sub-commissions which were held in the different capital of the Maghreb.

The meeting of the Rabat Maghreban Commission should notably be centered on all the questions of the unitary construction of the great Maghreb, the foundations of the Maghreban unity as well as short, medium and long term objectives of the unitary entreprise.

PRC's Qian Qichen Arrives 25 Oct

LD2610101388 Algiers APS in Arabic 0907 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Algiers, 26 Oct (APS)—PRC Foreign Affairs Minister Qian Qichen arrived in Algeria yesterday, Tuesday, on a 3-day working visit.

The PRC minister was welcomed at Houari Boumediene International Airport by the Foreign Ministry's Asia and Latin America department director and the PRC's ambassador to Algeria.

Egypt

Committees To Monitor U.S., Israeli Elections

NC2810100188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 28 Oct (MENA)—MENA has learned that Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, issued a decision today to form three committees at the Foreign Ministry whose task will be to evaluate and analyze the most prominent political events that will take place next month, notably the Israeli and U.S. elections, and the PNC meetings in Algeria.

The committees will review and determine the various results of the events, their possible ramifications, and the effect that they will have on the existing international initiatives to resolve the Middle East crisis and promote the convening of an international peace conference which will be attended by all concerned parties.

The committees will include a number of political experts at the foreign minister's office and the directors of the Foreign Ministry's relevant departments.

Paper on U.S. Stands, Shamir's Policy

NC2810070088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA)—AL-AHRAM has asserted that the measured steps achieved recently by establishing the minimum level of joint Arab coordination have begun to bear fruit and to signal positive results which could be exploited in the future to help retrieve the usurped Arab rights, particularly the Palestinian ones, as well as the right of the people of the uprising to establish their independent state on their national soil.

In its editorial appearing in tomorrow's edition, AL-AHRAM says that a senior U.S. official, such as Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci, has for the first time stood up to stress that U.S. interests and benefits lie in dealing positively with the Arab countries by supplying them with weapons in quantities that are in line with the U.S. strategy in the Middle East. It adds that these statements are justified by the U.S. companies' loss of tens of billions of dollars and tens of thousands of jobs which these funds could create and which have been channeled to the treasuries of European and Asian companies and states.

The paper also notes here the statement by Richard Murphy, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Middle East affairs, who says that the Palestinian people have their national identity and that the PLO cannot be separated from this people. The paper adds that this recognition now falls within the framework of U.S. statements on the Palestinian people's political rights, after once begin limited to talk about improving their living conditions.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AHRAM says that this change in the U.S. stands on the issues of Arab armament and the conflict with Israel requires constant Arab coordination with the American Arab community for financial assistance and the adoption of sound political and economic stands that support and push forward the Arab stands.

In another editorial appearing tomorrow, Friday, AL-AHRAM writes that at a time when active Egyptian moves led by President Husni Mubarak—such as the Aqaba and Baghdad summits and his meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand—have succeeded in accentuating the true Arab stand that supports resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict through peaceful means, particularly through the international conference, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir threatens that he will continue to occupy the Arab territories and also persists in rejecting any call for peace.

The paper says that the Aqaba and Baghdad summit parties, namely Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and the PLO, have a prominent role in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Thus, their collective support for peace underlines the fact that the Arab side is diplomatically encircling the prevaricating and intransigent Israeli side's stand on achieving peace, particularly the stand of the Shamir-led Likud bloc.

The paper adds that Shamir believes in the fait accompli policy, regardless of any new changes. He insists on occupying the Arab territories, even though the international community rejects this and it conflicts with the logic of a just peace.

In conclusion, AL-AHRAM says that the Arab side has no choice but to continue Arab and international coordination in order to turn the just peace option into a fact that will meet Arab interests and put an end to the Israeli expansionist ambitions. [passage omitted]

Romanian First Deputy Prime Minister Arrives

To Discuss Joint Projects

NC2410053088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2228 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—Gheorghe Oprea, Romanian first deputy prime minister, arrived in Cairo from Rome tonight for a 4-day visit to Egypt.

The Romanian official said on arrival that he and Egyptian officials will discuss ways of implementing joint Egyptian-Romanian projects and the progress of their implementation so far in the fields of energy and agrarian reform. They will also review several other projects which Presidents Husni Mubarak and Nicolae Ceausescu agreed upon during Mubarak's recent visit to Bucharest. [passage omitted]

Attends Committee Meetings

NC2410141888 Cairo MENA in English 1350 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, Oct. 24 (MENA)—Meetings of the 16th session of the Egyptian-Romanian joint committee opened here today under the co-chairmanship of Minister of State for International Cooperation Dr. Maurice Makramallah and Romanian First Deputy Premier Gheorghe Oprea.

The two sides sides discussed ways of boosting bilateral economic and technical cooperation as well as the possibility of signing a barter deal between the two countries.

A responsible source at the Ministry of International Cooperation said today that Oprea, who arrived here yesterday at the head of an economic delegation, was carrying a message to President Mubarak from President Nicolae Ceausescu.

Received by Mubarak

NC2510120688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received at the Presidential Office this morning Romanian First Deputy Prime Minister Gheorghe Oprea, who is currently visiting Egypt. Present at the meeting were Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, and Romanian Ambassador in Cairo Dan Constantin. After the meeting the Romanian official said he had conveyed to President Husni Mubarak and his wife and the Egyptian people sincere greetings from Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife.

Noting that the audience had gone extremely well, he said that they had discussed bilateral relations which he termed deep-rooted, in view of the distinct agreement and understanding between Presidents Mubarak and Ceasuescu. He added: We also exchanged views on ways to promote and develop bilateral relations, as well as on various international issues and the Middle East problem.

The Romanian official pointed out that the meetings of the joint Egyptian-Romanian committee are being held in an atmosphere of friendship and understanding, and added that the two sides are examining means to develop trade cooperation in the two peoples' interests. He remarked that the economic strength of both Egypt and Romanian will facilitate this cooperation and that joint projects are now being studied.

Assessing the Aqaba and Baghdad tripartite summit meetings, he said Romania views them as excellent. In conclusion, he expressed his wishes for prosperity and progress to the Egyptian people.

Meets Economy Minister

NC2510205688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2037 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, received Romanian First Deputy Prime Minister Gheorghe Oprea and the delegation accompanying him this evening. The Romanian delegation is currently visiting Cairo. The meeting dealt with ways of strengthening trade exchanges between the two countries and the possibility of increasing the volume, which totalled $580 million in 1987.

It should be recalled that Egypt and Romania are linked by a long-term trade agreement signed in May 1977, which is valid for 5 years and automatically renewable. The value of Egypt's exports to Romania, which totalled $300 million in 1987, include crude oil, cotton, coke, phosphate, citrus, and leather goods. The volume of Romania's exports to Egypt for the same year, which amounted to $280 million, include building iron rods, tractors, spare parts, timber, and paper.

Talks With Planning Minister

NC2610192788 Cairo MENA in English 1841 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, Oct 26-(MENA)—Deputy Premier and Minister of Planning Dr Kamal al-Janzuri discussed during his meeting today with the visiting Romanian first deputy premier ways of boosting bilateral relations.

They discussed the possibility of Romania's contribution to financing projects of the present second five-year plan in addition to plan projects already partly financed by Romania.

The Romanian ambassador to Egypt attended the meeting.

Signs Cooperation Protocol

NC2710135288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1221 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA)—Egypt and Romania today signed a protocol on economic and technical cooperation between them. The protocol was signed at the conclusion of the joint economic committee's 16th session, held in Cairo over the past 4 days. Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, signed the protocol on behalf of Egypt, and First Deputy Prime Minister Gheorghe Oprea signed it for Romania. The protocol is designed to increase bilateral cooperation in agriculture, housing, electricity, and industry.

The two countries agreed to hold the 17th session of the joint economic committee in Bucharest during the second half of next year.

The members of the Romanian delegation held several meetings with officials in the Ministries of Economy, Electricity, Industry, and Housing during their 4-day visit to Egypt.

Further on Joint Projects

NC2610090988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0735 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—Eng Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, has disclosed that agreement has been reached with Romania on cooperation in some electricity projects currently being implemented in Egypt totalling 30 million pounds. In a statement today, he said that it has been agreed that Romania will contribute to financing the building of a new 300-megawatt generator at the Asyut electricity station costing $150 million. It has also been agreed that Romania will contribute to financing 12 transformer stations, at a total cost of $20 million.

The electricity minister asserted that the financing of these projects will be from the Romanian Government's loan to Egypt, which is expected to total $200 million.

Economic Talks Begin With Indian Delegation

NC2710141888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1233 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA)—The second session of Egyptian-Indian economic talks began in Cairo today. The Egyptian delegation is led by Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, and the Indian delegation is headed by Minister of Commerce Dinesh Singh [title as received], who arrived in Cairo yesterday. During the meeting, the two delegations reviewed economic relations between the two countries and ways to increase economic cooperation between them, in light of the extension of the tripartite Egyptian-Indian-Yugoslav agreement which aims at developing trade among the three countries.

Dr Makramallah stated that during the meetings, which will continue for 2 days, the two delegations will follow up the measures which were taken during the meetings of the first session, held in India in 1985, and will discuss ways to develop economic relations. He added that an economic cooperation protocol between Egypt and India will be signed on Saturday.

New Round of Talks With IMF Opens

NC2410163688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1543 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—The Egyptian Government and the IMF have begun a new round of talks in Cairo. The Egyptian side at the talks is being led by Dr Salah Hamid, governor of the Egyptian Central Bank, while Omar Tahiri, IMF assistant executive manager, is heading the IMF side at the talks.

The talks, which began after Tahiri arrived in Cairo yesterday, Sunday, and which will last for several days, will center on the steps which the Egyptian Government will adopt in accordance with the letter of intentions it has submitted to the IMF in order for that organization to allow Egypt to negotiate with the Club of Paris creditor countries on the rescheduling of $4 billion of its debts which will become due during the year beginning 1 July 1988.

Also on the agenda of the talks is Egypt's obtainment of the second installment of the loan which the IMF agreed to in May of last year to extend to Egypt. Only the first installment of that loan has been received thus far. The second part is worth $150 million.

Mubarak Opens Radio, TV Station in Ismailia
NC2510205088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Ismailia, 25 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this evening opened the canal zone's radio and television station, Egypt's first regional radio and television station. He also gave the go-ahead for the beginning of radio and television transmissions.

President Mubarak was met by Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif; Ismailia Governor 'Abd al-Mun'im 'Amarah, governor of Ismailia; Major General Tahsin Shanan, governor of Suez; Husayn 'Anan, chairman of the board of trustees of the Radio and Television Union; Samiyah Sadiq, director of television; Amin Basyuni, director of radio; Ahmad Abu al-Sa'ud, director of the canal's radio; and 'Uthman al-'Adl, director of the canal's television.

After unveiling a plaque and cutting a ribbon to mark the opening of the building, President Mubarak made an inspection tour of the station's studios and control rooms.

President Mubarak listened to a recording of a local song and watched a drama performed by children of Ismailia.

President Mubarak was accompanied on his tour by members of the Egyptian media.

Capital Investment Company Violates New Law
JN2510185188 Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic 23 Oct 88 p 7

[Text] UKTUBAR has learned that the stock exchange commission has filed a suit in the general prosecution against Ahmad al-Rayyan, chairman of the Al-Rayyan company, for his first violation of the new law on capital investment companies. He violated Article 19 of the law, which stipulates that all companies engaged in capital investment at the time the law was issued transfer their assets abroad into Egypt within a period of 3 months, starting on the date the law became effective. This deadline expired on 8 September with Al-Rayyan failing to transfer a single dollar of his money in foreign banks to Egypt. Furthermore, he claims that he has no accounts in foreign banks.

21 Stand Accused for Cairo Prison Escape
NC2710154388 Cairo MENA in English 1430 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, Oct 27 (MENA)—Twenty one persons will face trial before the Supreme Security Court for having been involved in the case of the escape of three members of the Jihad Organisation from Turah Prison in Cairo last July.

This was announced by the Public Prosecutor Jamal al-Shuman at a press conference here today. Six of the accused are still at large, he said.

Among the accused are four students, four employees, two workers, a butcher, and an unemployed person. They also include a university graduate, a lecturer, an architect, and a contractor. No date was fixed for the trial.

4 Wounded in Explosion North of Cairo
NC2410213788 Cairo MENA in English 2110 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, Oct 24 (MENA)—A security source said this evening that the prosecution has undertaken investigations into an incident where a plastic bag with traces of gunpowder was thrown at a cafeteria in Greater Cairo's district of Shubra north of here which had a resonant explosion impact.

The source said the incident resulted in wounding four persons, who were hospitalized and given first aid. They left hospital immediately as their injuries were minor ones, said the source.

Suez Canal Toll Increase Coming in January
NC2710180488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA)—Eng Muhammad 'Izzat 'Adil, chairman of the Suez Canal Authority, announced that on 1 January, the Suez Canal toll will increase by eight percent over current rates.

At a press conference today, Eng 'Adil said the new increase will be in inverse proportion to ship tonnage; that is, the higher the tonnage, the lower the increase. This is intended to encourage large ships to traverse the canal, he said. He added that this new increase will mean a $90-million annual increase in canal revenue.

Eng 'Adil pointed out that the new increase is quite compatible with world inflation in general and inflation affecting maritime transport in particular. As for non-commercial military ships, he added, the 25 percent increase previously decided upon will remain unchanged. [passage omitted]

Libya

Mali's Traore Arrives in Tripoli, Comments

AB2710201888 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Excerpts] President Moussa Traore left Bamako today for Tripoli, Libya. From there he will go tomorrow to N'djamena, Chad. In these two capitals the current OAU chairman will hold talks with the leader of the Libyan revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and Chadian President Hissein Habre. We will now try to get on the line from Tripoli our correspondent Fatim Sidibe, who will tell us about this Libyan step of General Moussa Traore's mission.

[Begin Sidibe recording] Gen Moussa Traore was greeted in Tripoli with a 21-gun salute and by Col al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the 1 September Revolution, who was waiting for him at the foot of the ramp. The two heads of state literally threw themselves in each other's arms. This was an intense moment of reunion between an African president, anxious to put an end to any hotbed of tension on the continent, and Col al-Qadhdhafi, who has shown sincerity in his determination to make peace with Chad. [passage omitted] In the VIP lounge, where the Libyan press was waiting for him, Gen Moussa Traore stated the reasons of his visit to Tripoli. [end recording]

[Begin Traore recording] I want to thank my brother and friend, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and all the authorities of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, for the fraternal and friendly welcome my delegation and I received. This welcome, which I will describe as African and Islamic, does not surprise me, considering the many ties between ourselves and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and Col al-Qadhdhafi.

My visit to Libya today is both as president of the Republic of Mali and as current OAU chairman. As president of Mali, I will discuss with my brother the development of fraternal and bilateral cooperation. As OAU chairman, we will discuss African and international issues. These are the objectives of my visit to Tripoli today. [end recording]

Gen Moussa Traore and his host will at 1700 hold the first round of private talks on African issues and bilateral cooperation.

'Observers' Cited on 'Active' Policy in Africa

NC2410175488 Valletta Voice of the Mediterranean in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] The Libyan Jamahiriyah and Liberia have signed a cooperation agreement on the establishment of sugar, rubber, and paper factories and on the exploitation of timber resources in Liberia.

Diplomatic relations between the Libyan Jamahiriyah and Liberia were resumed early this year.

Observers describe the Libyan role in Africa as active. The Libyan Jamahiriyah is considered the Arab country most open in Africa through joint investments, projects, and economic and trade establishments.

Meanwhile, diplomatic relations between the Libyan Jamahiriyah and Zaire, which were broken in 1982, were resumed yesterday.

Families Demand Compensation for Deportees

LD2710102388 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2131 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] The families and relatives of the Libyan Arab citizens who were exiled and banished to uninhabited Italian islands by the detested Italian colonialists handed a note to the Italian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah. Here is the text of the note:

We Libyan Arab citizens, the children and relatives of those who were deported and banished to Italian prisons during the Italian occupation of our country, beg you to inform the Italian Government of the following:

Seventy-seven years have passed since the deportation of the first group of our fathers and relatives to exile and prisons on Italian islands. We would like to remind you and the Italian public opinion of the scale of this tragedy which has not yet been resolved.

Our fathers and relatives were banished in successive groups between 1911 and 1940, reaching a total of 5,884 people. Without having committed any crime, they were unjustly removed from their homes because they had exercised their natural right of self-defense, defense of their families and country, and resisting the tyranny and domination of foreign invaders over their resources.

Our fathers and forefathers were taken away with extreme brutality and placed on board ships where they were treated inhumanely. As a result, many of them died before the ships reached their destination. The survivors were squeezed into the darkest, harshest, and most brutal Italian prisons scattered all over remote and desolate islands. There they were forced to do hard labor which was an insult to them as human beings. They were forced to do things that their religion and Arab traditions forbade them to do.

News of them ceased and we could not ascertain whether they were alive or dead or whether or not they had left behind any children and what were the conditions of their life. Therefore, we demand the following:

1. We want to know the fate of our fathers and relatives who were exiled and who did not return.

2. We want to know the circumstances of their deportation and their treatment.

3. We want to know the circumstances of those who died and where their graves are. We also demand that their remains should be returned so that they can be buried in the homeland from which they were driven out.

4. Those of them who are still alive, or the families of those who died, must be allowed to return to the homeland.

5. Those who are alive and the families of those who died must be compensated for all the harm they have suffered as a result of the deportation, exile, and destitution.

While we put forward these demands, we are aware that we are making them to the government of the Italian Republic which emerged after the crushing of fascism. We are also aware that the Italian public opinion of today indicts fascism and its inhuman practices both inside and outside of Italy. We are also aware that a number of officials in the Government of the Italian Republic were among those who were burned by the fire of fascism and who suffered from its racist and colonialist practices. Consequently, our hope is great that our just demands will find support, understanding, and a serious response.

We also declare that our demands on the Italian Government are based on the following:

1. The responsibility of the Italian Government for all the unlawful acts of the past regime on the principle of the continuity of the state

2. The Italian invasion of Libya which began in 1911 for the purpose of occupying Libya was unlawful according to the international law which was in operation at the time. Consequently, all the measures subsequent to the invasion and related to it were also unlawful, including the act of deportation.

3. The method used to effect the deportation and the circumstances of it, the varying ages of the deportees and the fact that it was applied to both men and women, in addition to the acts of murder and starvation and the wholesale setting up of detention camps clearly show the plan of the Italian authorities, that is, mass extermination. This was a crime against humanity and is condemned by various international charters and codes. It was a crime that can never be forgotten no matter how long ago it was.

4. The link between the deportations and the military battles shows that they were intended to be a collective punishment of the population, that is, to take revenge on the noncombattants following failure in the battlefields. This is prohibited under Article 4 of the second Hague Agreement of 1899 which appertained to the Libyan-Italian war.

5. Italy also violated Articles 46 and 50 of the same agreement on protection of civilian inhabitants of occupied areas.

6. If we accepted that some of these deportees were prisoners of war, the method of their deportation violates Chapter 2 of the second Hague Agreement of 1899.

7. The deportations and the abominable treatment in Italian prisons and places of exile were not only violations of international law but also a breach of the provisions of Italian law itself. The acts took place at the hands of military authorities which had no jurisdiction, and no distinction was made between deportation and imprisonment. All of them were imprisoned far away from their homeland.

The treatment of the deported Libyan Arabs differed from the treatment of political detainees according to Italian law. It must be added that their brutal treatment violated Articles 168 and 189 of the military penal law of 1869 and the laws on the treatment of prisoners of war dated 29 August 1915, 2 February 1916, and 1 March 1916.

These demands are made in the hope of expunging a black page in relations between the two peoples and arriving at normal and positive relations based on respect and a joint rejection of fascism, colonialism, and racism. We declare that we will explore all possible avenues in order to obtain our rights.

The Italian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah received the note from the families and relatives of the Libyan Arab citizens deported to Italy. He expressed hope that old mistakes and remnants of the past will be put aside, and that good relations of cooperation and friendship will be established with the Libyan Arab people.

Mauritania

AFP Reports New Ministerial Appointments

AB2310104688 Paris AFP in English 1013 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] Nouakchott, Oct 23 (AFP)—Colonel Mohamed Sidina Ould Sidya has been named as Mauritania's new foreign affairs and cooperation minister, replacing Major Mohamed Lemine Ould N'Diayane, the country's ruling Military Committee for National Salvation announced.

Colonel Sidina Ould Sidya was formerly permanent secretary to the junta.

The reshuffle Saturday also saw Ahmed Ould Jiddou, formerly secretary of state in charge of a literacy campaign, named minister of mines and industry, and the creation of a women's affairs, handicrafts and tourism ministry headed by Khadijattou Bint Ahmed, the former mines and industry minister.

Put in charge of the literacy campaign was Mohamed Lemine Ould Ahmed, formerly director-general of the Mauritanian Press Agency.

No reason was given for the changes.

Official Says Incidents Now 'Contained'

PM2710154788 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Oct 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Mauritanian Official to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Bloody Confrontations Between Mauritanians and Senegalese Contained Completely"]

[Text] Nouakchott, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Mauritanian Ambassador in Dakar Mohamed Moktar Ould Zamel confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the incidents which the Senegalese villages situated on the Senegal River witnessed a few days ago have now been completely contained.

He said that the Senegalese authorities overpowered the groups that carried out aggressive acts against the Mauritanian citizens residing on Senegalese territory after a bloody battle during which Senegalese security forces were able to arrest most of them.

He added that the incidents did not cause any casualties on the Mauritanian side, but indicated that some people were wounded, although not seriously. The incidents occurred when the Mauritanian authorities prevented Senegalese farmers, who used to exploit the agricultural land on the Mauritanian side, from using the land this year.

Because this agricultural land has become very important, especially after the stage of exploiting the two dams of Diama and Mantifli [as published] on the Senegal River, and the Mauritanian authorities's endeavors to direct national public opinion toward investing in these lands in the hope that they may meet the country's food needs.

In a direct reaction, the farmers began to confront the Mauritanians residing on the Senegalese bank, most of whom are merchants.

Informed Mauritanian sources do not rule out the possibility that the opposing "Tekrur" groups played a role in these confrontations, especially as most of them live in villages situated on the two banks.

The problem of the agricultural land owned by the citizens of the two countries has always caused tension. But the sensitivities resulting from the Tekrur sect's involvement in a conflict with the authority in Mauritania has inflamed the situation even further this year.

The Mauritanian and Senegalese authorities hope to resolve the problem as soon as possible.

Negotiations among the governors of the border regions began a few months ago. The issue was also raised during the successive visits made by the interior ministers to both Dakar and Nouakchott.

Among the solutions being proposed to end the problem is the principle of compensating every citizen who owns land in the other country.

Sudan

Court Sentences 5 Palestinians to Death

NC2710191288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Oct (MENA)—The Sudanese Higher Court today sentenced to death the five defendants in the case of the explosion at the Acropole Hotel and the armed assault on the Sudanese Club in Khartoum.

The court passed the death sentence on Palestinians 'Imad Ahmad Hawilu, Sharif 'Izab 'Atwah, Hasan Qasim Mimr, Mustafa 'Arif al-Rifa'i, and Ibrahim Qita'i.

In the ruling which was read out by Court President Judge Ahmad Bashir, the court said the five defendants were convicted under Article 252 on charges of premeditated murder and attacking U.S. and Western interests in Sudan. It added that the defendants were found guilty on all charges listed in a four-page list of indictments, with the exception of the charge of criminal plotting under Article 95 because this was committed outside Sudan. The court president noted that the five defendants committed seven murders and were in possession of illegal weapons.

Jalal 'Ali Lutfi, head of the defense panel, said in press statements today that the defendants will appeal to the Supreme Court in the 2 next days.

Explosions rocked the Acropole hotel and the Sudanese Club on 15 May. Seven foreigners and two Sudanese were killed, and about 20 others were injured.

The first defendant revealed before the court that he was trained in a Palestinian camp in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' Valley, and that he received instructions from a person in Lebanon called Abu Jihad who had given him $4,000 and a map of Khartoum and asked him to carry out certain instructions given him. He added that his instructions were to go to an area near the hotel and find

a suitcase with two TNT grenades and another grenade buried under the ground, in order to carry out his operation against the Acropole Hotel.

Provisional Ordinance on Security Organ Issued
EA2610185388 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1313 GMT 26 Oct 88

[From the "press review"; paper not specified]

[Text] Last week the Council of Ministers issued a provisional ordinance on the national security organ for 1988. This was announced by Mr 'Abd al-Rahman, chairman of the Security and Defense Committee in the Constituent Assembly.

On the security situation in the southern part of the country, he said that the committee is continuing its contacts with the security organs to learn the details and enlighten its members on what is taking place in the operations zones. His excellency said that peace initiatives with the rebel, John Garang, have exhausted their purposes as he has not shown any inclination for peace.

'Abd al-Rahman pointed out that the Council of Minister's recent decision does not contradict the peace efforts.

Juba Governor Denies Siege; Awaits Famine Relief
EA2610191988 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1313 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Morris Lawiya, governor of Equatoria, has denied that the town of Juba is besieged. He said air traffic is continuing to the town without the least danger.

Lawiya said there are some quarters which are planning to boost the morale of the rebel forces by publishing and transmitting such false reports.

The town is only suffering from famine which is destroying lives, he said, explaining that his government has obtained 15,000 bags of sorghum and 14,000 bags of flour, in addition to 136 tonnes of relief materials and 35 tonnes of milk and soap awaiting transport to Juba.

SPLA Criticizes Shari'a, Al-Turabi
EA2810003188 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 27 Oct 88

["Commentary from the SPLA-SPLM Newsletter" entitled "Khartoum's Antipeace Posture Remains Unchanged"]

[Text] Not unexpectedly, the recent peace moves by the SPLM-SPLA and the Democratic Unionist Party, DUP, have drawn a blistering attack from Dr Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the fundamentalist National Islamic Front, NIF. This reaction by Dr al-Turabi, whose party is a member of the ruling coalition, represents the height of hypocrisy.

Shortly before he made his pronouncement against the SPLM-SPLA/DUP dialogue, Dr Turabi himself was in Kampala to oversee preparations for an alleged meeting between SPLM-SPLA leader, John Garang de Mabior, and the prime minister, Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. By promptly dissociating itself from Khartoum's unilaterally projected peace talks of 25th October in Kampala, and turning instead to a series of fruitful discussions with the DUP, SPLM-SPLA infuriated Dr Turabi.

Deeply embarrassed by the rebuff, he countered that political parties should not meet SPLM-SPLA individually, since such contacts were apt to send the Sudanese people confusing signals as to where the government stood in its policy vis-a-vis the SPLM-SPLA.

The SPLM-SPLA believes that in order to have a national conference leading to permanent peace in Sudan it is quite essential to start with a consensus building process through preliminary exchange of views between the movement and each of the various political parties and organizations.

Even at that point, the initiative will not belong only to the SPLM-SPLA and the government, but rather to all the political forces whose duty will be to call collectively upon the government of the day to take the necessary steps which can pave the way to a national constitutional conference on the country's fundamental problems. The prospective meeting between Dr John Garang and Sayyid Muhammad Uthman al-Mirghani is certain to be an important breakthrough in the search for peace.

However, it should be borne in mind that such and similar other gains could still be upset by other obstacles such as shari'a. It would be rather far-fetched to say that the elimination of shari'a would automatically mean the cessation of hostilities and the reign of peace, but there is absolutely no doubt that the Sudanese people will have overcome a major hurdle blocking the way to dialogue and peace if the present laws are scrapped and no new Islamic legislation is introduced.

Many political as well as jurisprudential arguments have been advanced against shari'a but it would do no harm to reiterate some of the notable grounds on which objection to its application is based. To impose shari'ah in certain areas [of the country] only and not in others would be repugnant to the spirit, if not the letter of the Constitution, since that would entail undue restriction on the movement of citizens. Persons who may not wish to be subjected to the rigors of shari'a are likely to find themselves forced to shun certain regions of their own country.

On the other hand, what brand of justice would the state be meting out to its subject if some offenders were liable to harsher legal courts than the rest of their fellow countrymen simply on account of their religious belief? Would it not be a valid argument to say that imposition of shari'a would be counterproductive in that it would

induce abhorence of Islam among belivers and eventually compel some, out of frustration, to renounce Islam itself, thereby committing riddah [apostasy], the worst conceivable offence under Islam. And since the punishment prescribed for riddah is death, how does shari'a in this particular instance accord with the constitutional rights to freedom of religion and worship?

Finally, it remains a highly debatable point whether shari'a possesses the required force in terms of deterring would-be transgressors of the law from committing the acts it is designed to suppress. The state in our contemporary world hardly needs to resort to outright terrorist measures to keep crime at bay when it has at its disposal a wide range of more humane and efficacious laws from which to choose.

For all its demerits, shari'a (?per se), without its political ramifications is not the real issue. This is not to say it is condonable, but the real threat underlying it is its potential for political damage. Shari'a in both its present and envisaged form, is only the thin end of the wedge.

Its implementation would be tantamount to a carte blanche for the fanatical warmongers of the NIF and their sympathizers to embark on a full scale Islamization of Sudan and the consequent total exclusion of non-Muslims from any meaningful role in the political life of the country. Dr Turabi, now attorney general of Sudan, and the chief architect of September 1983 Islamic laws, makes no secret of his party's designs in connection with the country's future political setup.

He contends that the basic plank in the platform on which the three partners in the present coalition government contested the last elections is a program to Islamize Sudan. Accordingly, he had asserted that the political mandate of the government is to utilize the legislature to effect the transfer of Sudan into an Islamic based theocratic state.

The claim of the exisistence of the so-called political mandate for Islamization is a complete fallacy. In fact, current attempts to bulldoze Dr al-Turabi's version of shari'a in the assembly have run into serious difficulties and this emphatically demonstrates the magnitude of popular opposition to Islamization. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and Dr al-Turabi are simply attempting to blackmail the Sudanese people into accepting their own political agenda by trying to make Islam a religion synomymous with shari'ah, a draconian set of archaic laws, and something different altogether.

It is undeniable that a very large proportion of Sudanese are Muslims. But it is also true that countries where almost the entire population profess Islam have deemed it wise to refrain from the folly of imposing shari'ah.

The only explanation for this action is that these countries cherish democratic values and have no intention of foolishly sowing the seeds of national disintegration through enactment of divisive laws. Mr Sadiq and Dr al-Turabi continue to cling tenaciously to shari'a, totally oblivious to the fact that it can only spell disaster for the country. The reality of the situation, no matter how bitter it may sound to the advocates of shari'a, is that peace and shari'ah are incompatible with one another. To be more precise, the two are mutually exclusive and no amount of political (?reaction) on earth can reconcile them.

The bellicose rhetoric of Dr al-Turabi only serves to confirm that the National Islamic Front, NIF, stands abruptly opposed to peace. Both Turabi and Sadiq have both got to consider dialogue as an alternative option to war unless and until Khartoum is able to speak to the SPLM-SPLA from a position of a state. This means an escalation in the war to enable Khartoum to reverse its military setbacks. An escalation which will make the prospects for peace recede even further away.

Defense Minister Returns from Ethiopia

EA2710124088 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0400 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Summary] Sudanese Defense Minister General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil returned home last night at the end of his working visit to Ethiopia.

Tunisia

'Sources' Welcome Ben Ali Policy of Dialogue

PM2710164788 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Oct 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Informed Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Tunisian Leadership's Dialogue With All Trends Is Continuing and Excellent"]

[Text] Tunis—Informed sources have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali is continuing efforts to achieve true national reconciliation according to the line he has adopted since 7 November 1987.

The sources said that the dialogue now being maintained between the Tunisian leadership and all trends is continuing and excellent. The sources conveyed on behalf of the Tunisian parties their gratitude to President Ben Ali and the government for continuing dialogue and efforts to resolve outstanding problems.

The sources indicated that there is a clear, major development in relations between the Tunisian leadership and all other trends, which suffered many repressive and oppressive measures under the former regime. But President Ben Ali has now opened channels of legitimate expression for them.

The sources added that President Ben Ali is committed to national reconciliation, which he emphasized must be realized in its true meaning, in the sense that it must be comprehensive. The sources said that within that context the Tunisian president also emphasized that the state's institutions are above all parties, including the Democratic Constitutional Rally (the ruling party), and that the leaders of the state have eliminated the negative aspects of the past and removed the one-party logic for ever.

The sources said that the efforts of the Tunisian leadership—president and government—to achieve the change Tunisia has been working for since 7 November have been constant. The change has been firmly established by the stands and measures taken by President Ben Ali, which have opened doors that had been closed and destroyed shackles that had been imposed in the past.

The sources hope that President Ben Ali's efforts will achieve the aspirations of the Tunisian people in this continuous march toward unity and solidarity.

Ben Ali Receives Italian Foreign Minister
LD2210181988 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti in the presence of Hedi Baccouche and Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh.

Mr Giulio Andreotti said that the meeting enabled them to discuss the good relations between Tunisia and Italy. He also said: I and my Tunisian counterpart briefed President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on the proceedings of the Tunisian-Italian higher joint committee. He also said that the president raised some political issues and some problems related to the fishing sector, which we believe can be solved by creating joint venture companies.

Mr Andreotti arrived in Tunis this morning in order to head his country's delegation to the final session of the proceedings of the Tunisian-Italian joint committee. He expressed pleasure at being in Tunisia to conclude bilateral agreements within the framework of the higher joint committee and to reiterate his country's desire to consolidate cooperation with Tunisia. Mr Andreotti headed for the Foreign Ministry in the company of Mr Abdelhamid Escheikh. The two ministers have had opening talks.

Intra-Gulf Affairs

Gulf States To Discuss Environmental Issues

LD2610204988 Tehran IRNA in English 1747 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Kuwait, Oct. 26, IRNA—Environmental protection organisations of eight Persian Gulf countries are to gather for an extraordinary session in Kuwait next Monday.

Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait and Iraq are to discuss cleansing of shipping lanes of war pollution and the role marine life plays in regional waters. Deputy prime minister and head of the Environmental Protection Organisation Hadi Manafi will lead the Iranian delegation to the session.

Kuwait

Al-'Usaymi Receives GDR Deputy Foreign Minister

LD2710111988 Kuwait KUNA in English 1019 GMT 27 Oct 88

[By Salih Nazzal]

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 27 (KUNA)—State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud al-'Usaymi Thursday held talks with Deputy Foreign Minister of Democratic Germany Heinz-Dieter Winter on bilateral relations and developments in the region.

An authorized source said the two sides expressed the desire to develop and boost cooperation between Kuwait and East Germany in various fields. The source added that Al-'Usaymi-Winter talks dealt with the situation in the international platform. Winter, who is on a current visit to Kuwait, invited Al-'Usaymi to visit Democratic Germany.

Later official talks between Kuwait and Democratic Yemen [as received] started during which the Kuwaiti side was presided by foreign undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin and the German side was headed by Winter. An official source at the Foreign Ministry told KUNA that the talks tackled bilateral ties and several issues of joint interest.

He added that the speech of H.H. the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah before the U.N. General Assembly last September 28 on behalf of the Islamic countries, was reviewed during the meeting. The German side showed special interest in the economic aspect tackled in the amir's speech particularly Shaykh Jabir's call to reconsider the debts of the poor countries.

The source also told KUNA that the official talks dealt with activities of the Kuwaiti-German joint committee and its annual meetings, the first of which was held in 1970.

On the situation in the Gulf region the two sides emphasized the necessity of supporting the ceasefire between Iraq and Iran within the framework of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, the source said. He also said that the talks touched on the Middle East conflict, particularly the Palestinian crisis, where the Kuwaiti side affirmed its support to the Palestinian national rights under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Regarding the situation in Lebanon, the source added, Al-Shahin briefed the German guest on Kuwait's stance which supports the independence and unity of Lebanon. Al-'Usaymi also informed Winter of Kuwait's support to Sudan's call for an emergency Arab League meeting to discuss the Lebanese crisis.

Oman

Sultan Qabus Receives Syrian Foreign Minister

JN2610162388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] In Muscat, Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at Al-'Alam Palace today. Yusuf ibn 'Alawi, Omani foreign minister, and 'Abd al-Karim al-Sabbagh, Syrian ambassador to Oman, attended.

Al-Shar' conveyed to Sultan Qabus a message from President Hafiz al-Asad. The message deals with Arab situations and developments in the Lebanese arena.

Qatar

Arab League's Klibi Meets With Amir

JN2710135188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1210 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Doha, 27 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, at noon today received Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, currently visiting Doha.

QNA said discussions during the meeting dealt with the overall current Arab developments, particularly the situation in Lebanon, as well as the exertion of an Arab effort to enhance the unity of that Arab country and enable it to overcome the current difficult circumstances as part of the continued efforts designed to bolster joint Arab action.

Syria's Al-Shar' Arrives, Meets With Minister

JN2610220288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Doha this evening. He was welcomed by Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs; the director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; and Nizar al-Jundi, the Syrian charge d'affaires in Qatar.

Al-Shar' met with Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani at his residence in Doha. Discussion revolved around bilateral relations. They also discussed the current Arab situation. [passage omitted]

Gives Message to Amir, Departs

JN2710103388 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0935 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Doha, 27 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, has received an oral message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The Syrian foreign minister, President al-Asad's envoy, conveyed the message when his highness the amir of Qatar received him this morning.

QNA said the message deals with the current Arab situation, particularly the latest developments in the Lebanese arena, and the good relations between the two countries. The Syrian minister left Doha following the meeting at the end of a 2-day visit to Qatar as part of a regional tour.

Saudi Arabia

Ankara Ambassador Cited on 2d Secretary's Murder

PM2810103988 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Oct 88 p1,2

[Rafiq al-Tayyib and Hasin al-Bunyan reports: "Second Secretary at Saudi Embassy in Ankara Assassinated"]

[Text] London, Riyadh—Saudi Ambassador in Ankara Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Hodja has stated that the Turkish security authorities are currently engaged in extensive investigations to identify the culprits who shot dead 'Abd al-Ghani Badawi, second secretary and administrative official of the Saudi Embassy, at the door of his home.

In a telephone interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the Saudi ambassador ruled out personal motives for the assassination because the assassinated official was an example of good manners and honesty and was best suited to represent his country as his conduct and relations with everyone were exemplary. He also ruled out the motive of theft, because his wallet was found untouched.

Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Hodja, giving details of the criminal attack, said: The martyred employee left the Saudi Embassy building at 2100 the day before yesterday. He came to my office at my residence and handed me some transactions and then left for his home in the Cankaya quarter using his own private car. His wife saw him parking his car and preparing to enter the house through the backdoor.

He added: Shortly after that she heard gunshots. After waiting long enough, she left her apartment and looked out of one of the internal staircase windows overlooking the external staircase. She found him on the floor covered in blood. She immediately contacted me. I went to the scene of the incident in the presence of Turkish security, foreign ministry, and interior ministry officials.

Initial investigations and examination of the body indicate that the Saudi diplomat was hit by two bullets, one entering through his left temple and coming out of his neck and the other lodging in his chest. The criminal assassination was carried out from a distance of about 70 centimeters. The gun was a foreign make and the bullets were a strange type not used in Turkey.

The Saudi ambassador in Ankara continued: We were deeply shocked but we are very confident that the Turkish security authorities will be able to unravel the mystery of this criminal incident and apprehend the sinful culprit.

He added: 'Abd al-Ghani Badawi was about 50 years old and lived with his wife near the Saudi Embassy, where about 18 diplomats and attaches work. He had worked in Turkey for the past 6 years and before that he worked at the Saudi Embassies in Beirut and Mogadishu and the Saudi Foreign Ministry in Jeddah. His eldest son is a graduate of the King 'Abd al-'Aziz University in Jeddah and works in the teaching sector in Al-Ta'if. He also has a son and a daughter still studying at the 'Abd al-'Aziz University in Jeddah.

Concluding his statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the Saudi ambassador beseeched God to have mercy on the deceased diplomat and to admit him to his heaven and compensate his country for the loss.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Turkish security authorities have intensified security measures around the Saudi Embassy in Ankara, which consists of four floors, is surrounded by a 3-meter high iron fence, and is about 1 kilometer from the official headquarters of Turkish President Kenan Evren and Prime Minister Turgut Ozal. The new security measures were also applied to a number of other Arab embassies in the Turkish capital.

In Riyadh, high-ranking sources at the Saudi Foreign Ministry have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that contacts were still continuing with the Saudi ambassador in Ankara on the assassination and that there was no complete information available about the motives of the assassination and those behind it and that the Turkish authorities have not yet apprehended the culprit.

The sources said the Saudi Foreign Ministry will announce its position after it receives the full details of the painful incident. They added the Saudi ambassador in Ankara has been instructed to follow the investigation and report promptly to the official authorities.

The Saudi Foreign Ministry expressed grief and sorrow at the assassination of 'Abd al-Ghani al-Badawi.

United Arab Emirates

Dubayy Police Seize 120 Kilograms of Hashish

JN2710194188 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 26 Oct 88 p 1

[Text] Dubayy—Dubayy police have managed to foil an attempt to distribute 120 kg of hashish after three Pakistanis smuggled it through the Al-Humriyah port in Dubbay by hiding it in sacks containing cattle feed.

Lieutenant Colonel 'Abd al-'Aziz Muhammad, chief of Dubayy Police Criminal Investigation Department, has stated that the value of the seized drugs amount to around 2 million dirhams. The drugs were hidden in 12 sacks, with 10 kg in each sack. Surveillance of the smugglers began last May.

Ramadan Receives PRC Construction Minister

JN2710172688 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, has received PRC Construction Minister Lin Hanxiong. The talks, attended by the PRC ambassador in Baghdad, dealt with ways to promote bilateral cooperation.

Phosphate Reserves Fixed at 10 Billion Tons

JN2810111788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Oct (INA)—A responsible source in the Iraqi general establishment for geological survey and mineral detection has said that exploration teams have fixed Iraq's phosphate reserves at 10 billion metric tons.

In a statement to INA today, the source added that several exploration teams are conducting surveys in various Iraqi areas. The teams expect to discover further high-quality phosphate reserves. The source said other teams have achieved excellent progress in discovering good reserves of kaolin clay in its two types, colored and white.

So far, the existence of 180 million metric tons of colored clay and 21 million tons of white clay has been confirmed. These raw materials are used to manufacture paper and electrical insulators. He added that raw materials of low-concentration iron have also been discovered. They are now used on a large scale in Iraq to manufacture resistant cement.

Paper Criticizes Iranian Stand on POW's

JN2710134888 Baghdad INA in English 1005 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 27, INA—Iran's rejection of proposals of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on repatriation of prisoners of war (POW's) consecrated the Iranian regime's inhumanitarian course and added a further example to its credit of crimes and violations, AL-THAWRAH paper said.

The Iraqi daily mentioned in a commentary here today that the rejection aimed at complicating the atmosphere of negotiations between Iraq and Iran, a thing indicating ill-intention of the Tehran regime and its [word indistinct] of the Iranian peoples' destiny and future.

It reiterated that Iraq's acceptance of the Red Cross proposals attested this country's straight humanitarian course, its willingness to prove its good-intention and its endeavour to create an atmosphere of forgiveness and trust to thaw some complexes surrounding the two sides' negotiations.

The positive stand of Iraq was the product of a high self-confidence and an affirmation of Iraq's observance of humanitarian and ethical aspects, AL-THAWRAH said, while the Iranian rejection would do harm to the Tehran regime, exacerbate its domestic problems and prove the soundness of the stand maintained by Iraq in spite of all pressure and blackmail attempts, the paper remarked.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Cited on Resumption of Talks

JN2710134388 Baghdad INA in English 1010 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 27, INA—The stand taken by Iraq toward the Security Council Resolution No. 598 "is unequivocal and firm" and Iraq did not want to turn the international resolution into a temporary instrument to end the war, but wanted it to be a base for a sound, solid peace between the two countries, AL-JUMHURIYAH paper of Iraq stressed.

Commenting here today on nearing resumption of Iraq-Iran negotiations in Geneva, AL-JUMHURIYAH remarked that those negotiations were not the first of their kind in the history of relations between the two countries. But, the daily added, "the one clear-cut distinction characterizing the present negotiations is that the Iraqi negotiator has experienced Iranian exploitation of loopholes and Iranian infringement upon Iraqi rights, infringements that have developed into an all-out armed aggression in September 1980."

The daily reiterated that the Iranian side should realize the fact that it was dealing with a neighbourly country conceding none of its rights to national sovereignty, land, waters and border.

AL-JUMHURIYAH concluded by saying the current peace negotiations in Geneva would not reach their aspired end unless the rulers of Tehran "have taken this historical fact into consideration seriously and out of a feeling of responsibility toward the question of establishing firm and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran.

Shamir on 'Narrow' Government, Referendum

TA2810112088 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Oct pp B1, 2

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Avraham Tirosh on 25 October at the prime minister's office]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Tirosh] Even if you win the elections and manage to form a Likud government, it is bound to be a narrow government with a strong opposition. Will it have enough power to make difficult decisions and carry out decisive steps?

[Shamir] These are indeed the limitations resulting from our traditional coalitional structure. The issue is the extent of control exercised by the central power. If we reach the stage of negotiations and decisions, however, we will make sure that those who are not in the government are also made party to the decision. It is obviously impossible to make war and peace decisions with a small majority.

[Tirosh] Will you also, like Peres, resort to a referendum?

[Shamir] No. I do not think it is advisable. It is usually done in totalitarian states. It is particularly inadvisable when the issue is a political negotiation. Those who conduct the negotiations will present the referendum voters with a fait accompli. Since the alternative the voters will be presented with is war, voting for such a fait accompli will be difficult. [passage omitted)

Peres Interviewed on Plans If Elected

TA2810132888 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Oct 88 pp B1, 2

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by Avraham Tirosh on 23 October in Peres' office]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Tirosh] You regard Husayn's remarks on U.S. television as proof of the existence of a Jordanian option. The Aqaba summiteers, however, discussed a confederation between Jordan and an independent Palestinian state. This means that it is actually a Palestinian option.

[Peres] The question is not what happens between them, but rather what happens between us and them. The problem, therefore, is not whether a confederation is agreed on, but what the opening line is—that is, whether it is possible to launch negotiations, and how it can be done. Negotiations can be launched according to the Al-Sadat formula, namely that Israel announces in advance that it gives up the territories. If we do cede them, a different starting point has to be found—an international opening, for instance. Anyone who finds this opening unacceptable has to come up with an alternative opening line.

The agreements between Husayn and 'Arafat are of no interest to us. I know that Husayn insists on two points:

A. That terror, in all its forms, should cease (and the fact is that there is no terrorist activity from the Jordanian border); and B. The acceptance of Resolutions 242 and 338. These two points are acceptable to us, but not to 'Arafat.

The existence or nonexistence of the Jordanian option is not a matter for speeches or declarations. The PLO has to accept the two resolutions, and that it cannot do. One resolution demands that the territory be partitioned. 'Arafat has neither the necessary majority nor the power to coerce the members of his organization to accept that. The other resolution entails creating a split in the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian people live on both banks of the Jordan River; a territorial continuity connects the banks. What is the Jordan River? You can take off your shoes and cross it. The idea of using that river to cut this people into two, as if by a knife, is dubious. The Jordanian option originated in Jordan. I am not surprised, therefore, that the PLO and Jordan have returned to each other.

[Tirosh] If the Jordanians and the Palestinians come to the international conference and to negotiations, however, they will bring the confederation proposal, which means the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank.

[Peres] Having a right to pose any demand, they can bring whatever they like. The negotiations will not open with a general consensus. It remains to be seen what they bring. There is a precondition, however: terror has to be stopped and the UN resolutions acknowledged. [passage omitted]

[Tirosh] Let us suppose you win the elections. What will you do on the first day and in the first year?

[Peres] I will propose at once that Husayn come to negotiations with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. I will agree to an international opening that would not be coercive, on the condition that the negotiations be direct.

I will explain my stands to the world and travel at once to the United States, where a new administration will be in power, so as to achieve agreement on three points: continued strategic cooperation, coordination of stands for political negotiations, and a drive to save the Israeli economy. All this can be achieved if we agree to open negotiations.

I will launch negotiations with a Palestinian representation, not with the PLO. If terrorist activities and riots in the territories cease, we will allow the residents to hold free elections. The representatives they elect to the negotiations can later constitute their self-government, which is also in adherence with the Camp David accords.

I will request Europe's support and its Middle East economic plans for making the negotiations more attractive.

I will attempt to make a further breach in the Chinese and Japanese wall and to attain full relations with the Soviet Union. I will strive to obtain cultural autonomy for Soviet Jews.

During the first year, I will also improve the Israeli Arabs' conditions from the equal rights point of view. [passage omitted]

Rabin: Land for Peace Plan Rejected in 1976
TA2810104888 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 28 Oct 88 p 1

[Report by Yosi Werter]

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday disclosed for the first time that in 1976, as prime minister, he rejected a Jordanian peace proposal which included Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders and the return of East Jerusalem.

In a lecture delivered in Tel Aviv, Rabin said that he, along with then Foreign Minister Yig'al Allon and then Defense Minister Shim'on Peres, rejected the proposal outright.

That same year, Rabin held several meetings with Husayn. During one of those sessions the proposal was raised. HADASHOT has learned that Rabin decided to divulge the story now to prove to the public that, contrary to the Likud's contention, the Alignment does not intend to return to the 1967 borders in exchange for a peace agreement.

Shomron Doubts Reports on 'Terrorists'
TA2710133188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron said during today's tour of Gaza that he doubts the truth of reports concerning the movement of hundreds of terrorists into south Lebanon. He does not believe that any new developments have taken place there. It is true that the PLO is attempting to establish a strong foothold to maintain its superiority over the other organizations positioned in the area, which use the premises as bases for setting out on operations against Israel. He added that the Air Force and the South Lebanese Army [SLA] constitute part of the Israeli effort to prevent such consolidation.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 27 October carries an interview with the chief of staff during his tour of Gaza. Asked about Syria's involvement in recent terrorist activities, Shomron replies: "Some Palestinian factions are profoundly influenced by Syrian guidance and training. I have no clear-cut proof that they dispatched any particular squad; however, it is difficult to believe that squads such as the recent one operate without the knowledge of the Syrian Army." Asked about future operations in Lebanon, Shomron replies: "I see no possibility of desisting from operating north of the security zone, where we must disrupt terrorist activities before they are executed and foil their infiltration attempts once they have been launched."]

On another subject, Gen Shomron said that the death of the child in Gaza yesterday is still being investigated. He noted that rumors about the incident have, of course, increased the agitation in the Gaza Strip, resulting in a higher incidence of disturbances; nonetheless, things should not be blown out of proportion. He stressed that there are no riots in the Gaza Strip and that there is no possibility of rioting there.

IDF Completes 'Large-Scale' Staff Exercise
TA2810115188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] The IDF has just completed a large-scale staff exercise designed to check the performance of headquarters commands, communications with the General Staff, and coordination between the various corps. The Air Force and the Navy also took part in the exercise.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the exercise lasted 2 weeks and continued through the increased activity on the northern border and the car bomb explosion. A previous exercise on the same scale was held 2 years ago. Major General Moshe Bar-Kochba, the chief of staff's adviser on the implementation of lessons learned from past experiences, was in charge of the exercise.

New Consular Personnel Granted USSR Entry Visas
TA2810153088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] The USSR has issued an entry visa for Arye Levin, the Foreign Ministry deputy director general and head of the Center for Political Research, who will be leaving for Moscow in 3 days to head the Israeli consular delegation there. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that leaving for Moscow with him will be Yo'av Bar-On from the Israeli Embassy in Argentina. They will thus replace the current delegation head, Meron Gordon, and his deputy, Dan Megido.

Visas 'Informal Breakthrough'
TA2810102288 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Oct pp 1, 19

[Report by Menahem Shalev]

[Text] An informal breakthrough in Israeli-Soviet relations appears to have taken place with the granting of Soviet approval for the appointment of Foreign Ministry assistant director general Arye Levin as head of the Israeli consular delegation in Moscow.

Levin, one of the Foreign Service's highest ranking diplomats and the head of the Foreign Ministry's Research Division, will go to Moscow in ten days time. He is slated to head the consular mission for a period of about two months, and will then resume his duties here.

Foreign Ministry sources said that although Levin's appointment does not signify a formal upgrading in the relations between the two countries, his stature and experience will lend a higher visibility and significance to the Israeli representation in Moscow and, as such, represents a real advance in the relations between the two countries.

At this time, the ministry intends to continue to fill the Moscow post with temporary appointees, but officials expect that with the precedent of Levin's appointment, his successors will also be senior diplomats.

The ministry hopes that Levin's appointment will pave the way for the consular delegation to engage in a political dialogue with Soviet officials. Until now the delegation has only engaged in a consular and technical dialogue.

Levin himself, however, told THE JERUSALEM POST last night that his appointment "has no significance beyond the established fact that a consular delegation is present in Moscow." Levin, who is slated to arrive in Moscow next Thursday, said that "the Soviets did not ask for the appointment of a senior official. They said that we could appoint whomever we want."

Levin, who is fluent in Russian as well as in several other languages, was considered this year as a candidate to be for appointment as Israel's ambassador to the UN, and has also been mentioned as a possible candidate for the ambassador's post in Moscow, if and when the Soviets resume full diplomatic relations with Israel.

Meanwhile, the head of the Cairo bureau of the Soviet daily IZVESTIYA, Dimitriy Velikiy, has arrived in Israel to cover next week's elections.

Sharon Signs Trade Accords With Romanian Minister

TA2810081288 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Oct 88 p 9

[Report by business correspondent]

[Text] Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon and his Romanian counterpart, Ioan Ungur, yesterday signed a series of trade protocols.

Under their terms, Israel and Romania will examine ways of reducing duties on each other's imports. In addition, the two ministers agreed to look into the possibilities of forming joint ventures in agriculture and industry.

Both sides said they would work to narrow the trade gap between the two countries, which currently favours Romania, and to encourage trade delegations to visit each other's countries.

The Romanian minister and his delegation leave Israel today following a week of talks, within the framework of the Israel-Romania joint economic committee.

Egypt Changes Conditions on Tabah Talks

TA2810102888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Oct 88 p 24

[Report by the diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Egypt has backed down from an ultimatum that the Tabah arbitration decision be implemented by December 20, and has now agreed to hold talks before the end of November aimed at setting a date for implementation. Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Peres yesterday approved the new proposal, which was formulated in contacts with American and Egyptian officials held by Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir and ministry legal adviser Robbie Sabel. Israel and Egypt agreed that by November 30 they must reach agreement on a date for the implementation of the Tabah award, which found that the disputed area must return to Egypt.

4 African Countries To Resume Ties 'Soon'

TA2810061988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] Four African countries intend to resume relations with Israel in the very near future. The countries are Mozambique, the People's Republic of the Congo, Zimbabwe, and Ghana. A reliable source close to the leaders of these countries says that the move is motivated by economic reasons. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami says that Jerusalem does not yet mention a specific date, but the resumption of relations is expected to take place soon.

British Tourism Minister Arrives for Convention

TA2810074788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] British Minister of Tourism John Lee arrived in Israel last night to attend the annual conference of the British Union of Travel Agents being held in Jerusalem. Over 1,000 members will attend the meeting. The Israeli Tourism Ministry attaches great importance to the conference because of the pressure exerted by the PLO and anti-Israel organizations in Europe to cancel it.

Last night the Arab League issued a statement saying that the participation of the British minister of tourism in the convention constitutes a provocation against the Arabs and may affect relations between Britain and the Arab countries.

Poll Shows Likud Ahead; Unity Government Opposed

'Sharp Drop' for Alignment

TA2710143088 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 27 Oct 88 p 2

[Text] A poll conducted by Modi'in Ezrahi, headed by Dr Rahel Yisre'eli, forecasts a sharp drop for the Alignment. According to the results of the poll, the Alignment will receive only 33 seats after losing some six seats to the Likud, three to the Citizens Rights Movement [CRM], and two to the Arab sector. The poll found that MAPAM will receive three seats.

Since the previous poll Kakh has been disqualified. The poll shows that Kahane's five seats will be divided up between the Likud, which will receive three seats; Moledet, 1, and SHAS [Torah Observing Sepharadim], 1. There were no other changes in voting patterns during the past week.

According to the Modi'in Ezrahi poll, the right-wing block will receive 53 seats, and together with the religious parties it will take 65 seats, while the Alignment-leftist bloc will receive only 55 seats, including those of Memad.

Polls carried out this week by other firms did not show the transfer of six seats from the Alignment bloc to the right wing. There were, however, similar findings of a tendency by voters to transfer from the Alignment to the leftist bloc: Shinuy, the CRM, and MAPAM.

The following are the results of the Modi'in Ezrahi poll: The Modi'in Ezrahi poll was held between 14 and 17 October while the previous poll was held between 7 and 10 October.

Party	14-17 October	7-10 October
Likud	43	40
Alignment	33	33
National Religious Party	5	5
SHAS	4	3
Agudat Yisra'el	2	2
Tehiya	8	7
Tzomet	2	2
CRM	8	9
Shinuy	1	1
HADASH plus Progressive List for Peace	8	8
Kakh	-	5
MAPAM	3	3
Memad	1	1
Degel Hatorah	1	1
Moledet	1	-
Total	120	120

30 Percent Still Undecided

TA2810100888 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Oct 88 p A1

[Text] A nationwide poll commissioned by HA'ARETZ and conducted by the PORI Institute last week reveals that more people have declared an intention to vote for the Likud than for the Alignment. Almost 30 percent, however, remained undecided, refused to divulge their choice, or said they did not intend to vote.

Answering the question "If the Knesset elections were held today, which party or faction would get your vote?", 22.4 percent said they would vote for the Likud and 4.2 percent said that they were inclined to vote for the Likud, totaling 26.6 percent.

Some 18.9 percent said they would vote for the Alignment and 4.0 percent said they were inclined to vote for the Alignment, totaling 22.9 percent.

An analysis of the two major blocs—the right and the left—also indicated a slight edge for the right. The rate of respondents who declared an intention to vote either for the Likud or for the small right-wing parties is 32.8 percent, while the rate for those who declared an intention to vote either for the Alignment or for the small left-wing parties is 31.1 percent.

PORI director Refa'el Gil, who conducted the research, notes, however, that the election results are unpredictable, as 29.3 percent are still "floating votes" and can change the results in either direction.

The following is the breakdown of the poll (in percent):

Likud	26.6
Small right-wing parties	6.2
Alignment	22.9
Small left-wing parties	8.2
Religious parties	4.1
Other parties	2.7
Refuse to say	17.6
Undecided	10.0
Will not vote	1.7

The poll encompassed a representative sample of 1,200 Jewish men and women over the age of 18 polled in private interviews throughout Israel, preserving complete secrecy.

Public Against Unity Government

TA2810120588 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 28 Oct 88 p 1

[Report by Tzvi Timor]

[Excerpt] Most of the public, including both Alignment and Likud voters, is against the establishment of a national unity government. A vast majority of the Alignment voters support Peres for prime minister—assuming

the Alignment wins the elections—whereas most of the Likud voters would prefer Rabin in such a case. If the Likud forms the next government, 40 percent of all voters would support Shamir for prime minister. Support for Sharon among the Likud voters is dwindling, and David Levi has been pushed aside with support from only 5 percent. These are the findings of a Modi'in Ezrahi Institute poll conducted for 'AL HAMISHMAR among a representative sample of the Jewish population.

The poll indicates that 48.6 percent of the population are against a national unity government, 36.5 percent support such a government, and 14.9 percent are indifferent.

The greatest opposition to a national unity government was registered among the leftist voters—78.3 percent. Among the Alignment voters, 58 percent are opposed to a national unity government. Among the Likud voters, 46.3 percent are opposed to such a government, whereas 43 percent are in favor. [passage omitted]

Conflicting Forecasts Reported

TA2810121988 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Oct 88 p A1

[Text] Three polls conducted this week again give contradictory forecasts regarding the results in the Knesset elections. According to the findings of polls conducted for MA'ARIV by the Modi'in Ezrahi and Israeli Institutes, the right-wing and religious blocs enjoy an advantage. Another poll conducted by the Tatzpit Institute indicates that the left-wing bloc and the Arab parties can prevent the formation of a right-wing coalition.

Regarding the Alignment's strength, there is a significant difference between the polls: 33 mandates in one poll as compared to 43 in another. Some of the forecasts for other parties are: Likud—39-43 mandates; Tehiya—5-7 [as published]; Citizens Rights Movement [CRM] 6-8. The Israeli Institute poll was conducted by Dr Moshe Barbi of Bar-Ilan University, the Modi'in Ezrahi poll by Dr Rahel Yisre'eli, and the Tatzpit Institute poll by Dr Aharon Pein.

	Israeli Institute	Modi'in Ezrahi	Tatzpit
Alignment	41-43	33	43
Likud	39-41	43	40
National Religious Party	3-4	5	3
SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]	4	4	3
Agudat Yisra'el	2	2	2
Degel Torah	1-2	1	1
Memad	1-2	1	1
Tehiya	7	8	5
Tzomet	1-2	2	1
Moledet	1-2	1	1
CRM	6	8	7
Shinuy	1	1	2
MAPAM	2	3	2
HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality]	4	-	6
PLFP and Darawshah (including HADASH)	3-4	8	2
Retired Citizens	-	-	1

1,600 Reported Held in Administrative Detention

TA2810152588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Since the beginning of the uprising in the territories the number of military judges in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip has doubled. Currently there are six regular army judges and several additional judges and attorneys on reserve duty. This was reported by the military judge advocate in a seminar held for the government's legal advisers.

According to Brigadier General Amnon Strasnoff, there are currently some 1,600 people held in administrative detention, as opposed to some 3,000 in the first months of the uprising. Gen Strasnoff reported that most of the administrative detainees have submitted appeals. More than a quarter of the appeals have been heard and the detention terms were shortened or canceled. He noted that today there are some 200 appeals pending a hearing. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reported the remarks of the military judge advocate.

32 Soldiers Tried for Misconduct in 'Uprising'

TA2810113388 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Oct 88 p 22

[Text] Thirty-two IDF soldiers and officers have been tried since the beginning of the intifada [uprising] for unbecoming conduct toward the residents of the occupied territories. In addition, dozens of other soldiers have been reprimanded by their commanding officers.

This was reported last night by IDF judge advocate-general, Tat-Aluf (Brigadier General) Amnon Strasnoff at a lecture for lawyers attached to government ministries. Strasnoff said that the IDF had issued "clear" orders concerning how soldiers should treat residents of the territories. He indicated, however, that soldiers confronted with "unexpected situations" had difficulty abiding by the orders. [passage omitted]

Girl Died of Illnesses, Not Tear Gas

TA2710144888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Excerpt] The 3-year-old Khan Yunus girl did not die of tear gas inhalation, but rather as a result of severe pneumonia and heart disease. The postmortem, carried out at the Abu Kabir Forensic Institute, also revealed that the girl suffered from Down's Syndrome. [passage omitted]

Youth Killed in Gaza Strip; 9 Wounded in Nabulus
TA2810060388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] A 16-year-old youth from the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip was killed yesterday, and the Army is investigating the circumstances. The body was brought to the Al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza and was then removed by the family and buried before an autopsy could be performed. Three other youths were wounded yesterday during disturbances in Khan Yunus.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 28 October adds: "Nine people were wounded in Nabulus yesterday. Casualties were also reported in the refugee camps of Janin and Tulkarm, where disturbances and riots took place throughout the day yesterday."]

MK Reisser Dies Following Car Accident
TA2810062288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Likud Knesset Member Mikha'el Reisser, who was badly injured in a car crash on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway 2 days ago, died yesterday at Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital. [passage omitted]

'Text' of AL-HAYAH Interview With Husayn

JN2710160488 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] London, 27 Oct (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn has expressed the belief that it is time the Arab leaders met in their ordinary summit scheduled for next November in Saudi Arabia. His majesty added that in light of the contacts which will be held with Saudi Arabia in the near future, it is hoped that the picture will become clearer, enabling us to follow the path that leads us to this objective.

In an interview with the London newspaper AL-HAYAH, published today, his majesty said that the situation in Lebanon has assumed serious proportions and naturally this situation has to be discussed in contacts on the highest level in the Arab world whether the summit is convened or not.

His majesty voiced satisfaction with the results of the Aqaba meeting with His Majesty President Mubarak, and Mr Yasir 'Arafat. His majesty hoped that a Palestinian stand will soon crystallize to promote the Palestinian cause and the common aim of realizing a durable and just peace in the region.

His majesty touched on a number of other topics such as the economic situation in Jordan. He asserted that the Jordanian people are determined to confront all challenges and successfully bypass the current phase.

Following is the text of the interview:

Question: Today, you received Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. What was the topic of discussion and the contents of the letter he carried from President Hafiz al-Asad?

Answer: The visit was prompted by Brother President Hafiz al-Asad's desire to clarify to us the situation in Lebanon, and to hold consultations on the latest developments in the region. We welcomed the visit and I am pleased that I was given the opportunity to hear these views and to affirm to President Hafiz al-Asad our firm, unchanging policy. We sensed from the vice president that there is concern about Lebanon's sovereignty and unity and a determination to work for extricating it, God willing, from the difficult situation through which Lebanon and all of us are passing.

This is because the Lebanese crisis reflects on all of us in the Arab homeland. The aim is to realize Lebanon's unity and ovecome the existing difficulties. Naturally, we support this trend with all our strength.

Question: Did you discuss the Syrian-U.S. agreement on choosing Mikha'il al-Dahir as Lebanese presidential candidate?

Answer: I believe that the search is now concentrating on what can be done to bypass the current conditions and to avert Lebanon's division and collapse, God forbid. Naturally, the problems in Lebanon have assumed serious proportions, permitting many external sides from outside Lebanon and from outside the Arab homeland to affect the Lebanese situation one way or another. No doubt everybody wants efforts to be concerted in order to overcome the current impasse.

Question: Does the current talk about an emergency summit to tackle the Lebanese situation mean that Jordan supports such a summit?

Answer: In fact, what we are discussing now is the convocation of the summit that is scheduled to be convened next month in Saudi Arabia. At least this is what was agreed on. What is at issue now is the summit. Will it be on schedule or are there changes? Naturally, the Lebanese situation has to be discussed at the highest level in the Arab world regardless of whether the summit is held or not. As for the ordinary summit, it is time we met and contacted Saudi Arabia to discuss this matter and any new developments.

I believe that Saudi Arabia is very concerned to promote any efforts to benefit the Arab homeland in terms of meetings, cooperation, joint action, and dealing with all outstanding issues. As a result of contacts in the very near future, we hope the picture will become clearer and we will embark on the path leading to this objective.

Question: How would you evaluate the Aqaba meeting?

Answer: The atmosphere was exceedingly positive and relaxed. We were glad to welcome President Mubarak and Mr Yasir 'Arafat who accompanied him on the trip. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the latest developments. I think the PLO is now crystallizing its position and making political efforts given the key and direct responsibilities it now assumes. I think this position will crystallize in the near future. As for bilateral relations, the two sides want to keep up contacts and consultations. If they should seek advice on any matter or issue, we will be forthcoming. I sensed a change since they now have direct responsibility. This has put them in a position where they tackle issues more seriously and precisely.

I trust they will crystallize a position soon enough to further the Palestinian cause and the common objectives, the latter being the attainment of a just, lasting peace in the region. Naturally the future may be influenced by other developments—the Israeli elections, for instance. I don't want to get involved in them in any way whatsoever. It seems to me, however, that the Israeli electorate will have to choose between peace or an aggressive, intransigent posture that has even set its face against an evolving international consensus calling for a just, durable peace in this part of the world.

The alternative is a regional breakdown that will affect everyone and future generations and imperial world peace. Having made progress on a number of issues

including nuclear arms, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Namibia, and the Iraq-Iran war, the Soviets and the Americans must realize they must now focus on the Middle East, where you have the most vexed and explosive issue. I think the U.S.-Soviet dialogue is ongoing. But it must inevitably be affected by the upcoming presidential elections in the United States.

I think there are other factors that come into play. There is an intra-Palestinian dialogue which should produce a Palestinian stand—which we will support no matter what. Our bilateral ties are relaxed, since they are now shouldering their responsibilities. As far as Jordan is concerned, the negative elements of the past are now behind us. When the time comes to restructure our ties as brothers, I hope the edifice will be founded on firm and correct bases.

All the negative elements of the past are now behind us, as are all of the doubts and the causes that had given both us and our Palestinian brethren a hard time. All we wanted was for them to attain their rights on their national soil. I think both of us are now happy.

Question: How would you assess your relationship with the Palestinians in the wake of the Aqaba meeting? Is it a return to coordination or a joint delegation [to the international conference], or a confederative relationship?

Answer: Neither the joint delegation nor the confederation came up, although Mr Yasir 'Arafat emphasized that the Palestinian side adheres to this position. I think, however, both sides agree on the need for distinguished relations between them so that they can confront dangers and strive toward common objectives.

Question: What is Jordan's stand on the issue of confederation with the Palestinians?

Answer: It is easy for us to explain our stand on confederation. When this idea was basically proposed, it was actually a means, in our view, to pave the way for the PLO to represent the Palestinian Arab people at the international level and within the framework of the international conference. However, the new situation that was created following our adoption of our measures rendered any discussion of this subject premature until the situation crystallizes in a better way to enable us to discuss relations between members of the Palestinian and Jordanian family. I believe that this should be achieved. However, it is now premature.

Question: Will there be another appointment with Yasir 'Arafat after the PNC?

Answer: I believe that he will visit Jordan after the PNC meetings, and we have welcomed him.

Question: In the past, you have encouraged cooperation among the Arab states similar to the EEC. Has Jordan set up any plan or taken any step in this regard?

Answer: Jordan advocates this approach. At the same time, we are preparing studies on this issue. We believe that the time is ripe for proposing the subject. God willing, we will achieve it on a large-scale. At this stage, we are preparing the formula. We will try to launch it, not for the sake of forming axes but to make the Arab brothers rally around it, thus serving ourselves and the Arab march. At any rate, we should begin with cooperation in the various fields in light of what we have achieved throughout the past years. We hope we will succeed in our efforts.

Question: The Kingdom is suffering from economic problems. How do you view solutions to them?

Answer: I believe that the situation now is better than it was a short while ago. I believe that tomorrow will be better than today. The thing that gives me hope is that the issue is now being discussed by all members of the Jordanian family. I believe that the Jordanian family has a strong determination—based on awareness—to overcome these problems. We are not experiencing an isolated problem. The whole world and even the Arab world are also experiencing this problem. At the same time, the reasons are known, and the circumstances of our Arab brothers are also known.

It seems that we were affected negatively by the inability of some sides to meet their obligations toward us. Our objective now is to overcome the challenges and to rely on ourselves more and more. As a second step, we hope that our brothers will help and support us. I hope we will not remain captive to the unknown. I believe that we will overcome this stage successfully, God willing.

Question: Has the disengagement decision affected Jordan's economy?

Answer: No, it has not, and it has nothing to do with the situation we are experiencing.

Question: How do you interpret the U.S. Congress' decision to decrease financial aid to Jordan?

Answer: In fact, the U.S. aid to Jordan was decreasing in the past. Although we appreciate this aid, I do not believe that it was a major factor in our economic life for a number of years.

Question: Is there any advice to the PLO that would make it influence the U.S. stand and change it positively?

Answer: We discussed this in the past and at the recent meeting. I am sure that they will arrive at the appropriate decision to reinforce their ability to serve their cause—also our cause and the Arab nation's cause.

Question: The Soviet stand on the international conference and the peace process is similar to the Jordanian one.

Answer: I think there is an Arab unanimity, with some exceptions—who are a minority—that the international conference, held under the auspices and participation of the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council and all sides to the conflict, including the PLO, is the way to reach a solution and achieve the permanent and just peace.

Question: It is said that the United States has changed its stand and accepted the principle of Soviet participation in the Middle East conference. In your assessment, is there a real change, and are we now getting closer to the convening of the international conference?

Answer: My impressions and information suggest that contacts are continuing between the U.S. Administration and the Soviet leadership. Naturally, nothing will crystalize before the U.S. elections.

Question: There was a unity between Jordan and Iraq. Do you think that in the future a unity formula can be achieved between Jordan and Iraq?

Answer: Our relations are solid and strong. Personally, I am very satisfied with them. We support Iraq in the battle, which was imposed upon it and upon the Arab nation, against a danger that threatened the Arab order. I believe that Iraq plays a major, positive role in the Arab march. We are hopeful that we will be able to rebuild cohesion and achieve it on the level of the big homeland.

In all circumstances, we will remain faithful to the objectives of our grandfathers and fathers to achieve Arab unity on the biggest level and on the strongest possible foundations. In our minds, the subject of unity is everywhere and by providing the appropriate circumstances, we can reach the goal of unity.

Question: Is there an expected meeting between you and President al-Asad following the visit by Khaddam to Amman?

Answer: Nothing has been decided yet, but I believe that meetings are expected, and they should be.

Question: If the Arab summit conference was convened, what is your concept of the discussion of the Lebanese issue, and how do you believe this issue can be solved?

Answer: Undoubtedly, the situation is grave. I cannot predict the manner of discussion in any Arab forum or the discussion of the issue itself. Yet, I believe that everybody is concerned about the unity of Lebanon and about dragging it out of this situation. This is our duty toward Lebanon and ourselves.

Question: Will Syria accept the convening of a summit conference about Lebanon?

Answer: The subject of a summit to discuss the Lebanese situation has not crystallized yet. The convening of it will be decided following high level contacts.

UN Head Interviewed on Peacekeeping Role

JN2710131788 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27-28 Oct 88 pp 1, 4

[By Lima Nabil]

[Text] Amman—United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has said that any solution to the Palestinian problem should take into consideration the aspirations of the Palestinian people living in the Israeli-occupied territories and the U.N. would engage itself in Middle East peace efforts within the framework of the various resolutions adopted by the Security Council on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Perez de Cuellar, answering questions telexed to him from Amman this week, said he remained optimistic over the peace talks between Iran and Iraq and that he hoped that the issue of exchange of prisoners of war (POWs) held by both sides could be expedited in the near future with help from the international Red Cross.

The U.N. chief also said that a U.N. plan presented to the parties involved in the Western Sahara conflict takes into consideration the positions of the parties and was a "solid example of multilateralism in action."

The U.N. chief answered the questions before he announced that the Iran-Iraq negotiations would resume in Geneva Oct. 31 and before a U.N. committee voted to seek direct talks between Morocco and Polisario, the two main parties involved in the dispute over the Western Sahara.

Following is the full interview:

Question: Do you think that the current negotiations under your auspices between Iraq and Iran would lead to a real and permanent peace between the two countries?

Answer: It is certainly my hope that the efforts I am now making to implement Security Council Resolution 598 will lead to a durable settlement of the differences between Iran and Iraq. In operative Paragraph 4 of that resolution, the Security Council calls upon the two countries to cooperate with me in mediation efforts to "achieve a comprehensive, just and honourable settlement, acceptable to both sides, of all outstanding issues." With the cooperation of the parties involved, and the support of the international community, we should be able to settle all outstanding issues, as the resolution requests.

Q: During your mediation of the ceasefire, have you ever felt like quitting, and what would you do if you faced a crisis or deadlock in the future?

A: I have never despaired during the eight years of the war between Iran and Iraq, although at times I have been discouraged. One of the great strengths of the United Nations throughout this bloody conflict, in fact, has been its persistence. Neither I nor the Security Council has ever ceased to seek a peaceful settlement. You will recall that Resolution 598 was unanimoiusly adopted over one year ago.

The unanimity of the council on that occasion gave the resolution added force, and made it possible for us to adopt a framework for a comprehensive, just and honourable settlement. It is important to note that most often when we achieve success it is the result of long, hard effort. With the continued cooperation of the parties, we shall persevere in that spirit towards a (peaceful) solution to the conflict in accordance with the (U.N.) Charter.

Q: What is next on the agenda after the Geneva talks and when do you expect an exchange of POWs will take place?

A: As you know, the parties are due to continue the direct talks in the near future in Geneva. My representative, Mr. Jan Eliasson, and I will remain in close contact with the parties and I am very hopeful that early progress will be made.

As to the prisoners of war, this is a matter where the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is best placed to assist. I understand that the ICRC is in contact with both countries, and I should like to express the strong hope that the release and repatriation of the prisoners of war will be completed in the near future—something that is called for in Resolution 598.

Q: Do you expect that the U.N. success will enable it to embark on other initiatives? Would this convince the U.S. to pay its overdue contributions to the organisation?

A: Our diplomatic success in the conflict between Iran and Iraq can be a learning experience, but it cannot be cloned. Many conflicts share certain similarities, but each conflict is essentially unique. I am hopeful that our progress in mediating the dispute between Iran and Iraq will encourage other parties to cooperate with us in the quest for peace in other regions of the globe.

As for the recent announcement by the United States that it intends to pay its legally-assessed contributions, I welcome that decision. At the same time, I must caution that not until all nations in the arrears have brought their assessed contributions fully up-to-date, will the world organisation be on firm financial footing.

Q: You have engaged yourself in many conflicts around the world—in the Middle East, Western Sahara, Kampuchea, Cyprus, etc., and lately you handed proposals to Morocco and the Polisario. What is happening to your efforts in Western Sahara?

A: With regard to the Western Sahara, I have presented a peace plan, in cooperation with the chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), to the parties concerned. Those parties conveyed their acceptance of the plan, along with comments, Aug. 30. The plan took account of the positions of the parties and was a solid example of multilateralism in action. Its object is to restore peace in the region and towards this end, it affords a framework for effecting a ceasefire and for the creation of conditions necessary for the organisation of a credible referendum to allow the people of Western Sahara to exercise their inalienable right of self-determination free from military or civil constraints.

Q: What would be the role of the U.N. if the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would embark on the government-in-exile option? Do you see any obstacles that might stand in the way of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat addressing the world body?

A: If the PLO embarked on the option you indicated, it would fall within the sphere of responsibility of governments to decide whether or not they recognise the new entity. Recognition of the new entity would be a matter for decision by each government. Should the new entity apply for membership in the United Nations, it would also be a matter for the member states to decide upon, in accordance with the procedures laid down in the charter.

Q: Do you consider the Palestinian uprising a contributing factor to peace settlement in the Middle East conflict? Do you see a role for the United Nations and its agencies in the West Bank and Gaza now that His Majesty King Husayn has disengaged Jordan from the occupied territories?

A: The aspirations of the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza must be taken into account in any final settlement. The actions of the United Nations in the Middle East will always be guided by resolutions that the organisation has adopted, especially Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Meanwhile the organisation continues to be engaged in the search for a just and durable peace in the region and continues to provide humanitarian assistance to the population.

Q: To what extent is the U.N. budget deficit affecting U.N. peace bids and its role as an umbrella for increased human understanding?

A: As chief administrative officer of the organisation, I am naturally concerned with the effect that budget deficits will have on our political effectiveness, on long-range planning, and on staff morale. Morale at this point is rising, because of our recent diplomatic successes, but

in the long run we can not carry out our mandate properly if we are denied the necessary funds. It is indeed ironic, that those who support our peace-keeping efforts in word, often fail to do so in deed. Peace-making is an expensive proposition, but it is always cheaper than war—in material as well as in human terms.

Crown Prince Departs for Paris 26 Oct

JN2610125088 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] His royal highness the crown prince left for Paris today to take part in the annual Rome Club conference, scheduled to debate the international economic and development situation. The conference will discuss means of promoting relations between rich and poor countries and boosting cooperation between northern industrial nations and the developing countries of the South.

During the visit, his royal highness will meet with leading political and economic world figures participating in the conference.

The crown prince was seen off upon his departure by the chief of the Royal Court, the chief chamberlain, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and senior officials.

Paper Reports Suspension of Temporary Passports

JN2510205688 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 24 Oct 88 p 1

[Text] As a result of the Aqaba summit, Jordan intends in the near future to suspend the issuance of temporary passports to the inhabitants of the West Bank and those who are holding green cards and to permit visitors from the West Bank to stay for a much longer period on its territory.

Society To Study Computer Development, Education

JN2610140888 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Oct 88 p 2

[By Najwa Najjar]

[Excerpts] Amman—Communication through computers is the fastest growing field worldwide. Although thousands of mini-computers are already in use in Jordan, a need to develop indigenous software for computers and to spread computer awareness and literacy in Jordan to enhance, or raise, the level of the profession has become increasingly apparent.

To meet this need, 12 individuals in 1984 founded the Computer Society. As a professional scientific society, its stated objective is to provide a forum for the computer activities, to study the profession's organisational matters, to spread computer awareness and to provide initial directions to private and public organisations, according to the president of the society, Ghassan 'Abdallah.

It took until 1986 for the society to be officially approved and until the begining of 1987 for it to start functions. In the past year membership has grown to 306, of which 20 per cent are women. 'Abdallah noted that more women are joining since they comprise 50 per cent or more of the computer students in community colleges and universities. One advantage that women have "is that they do not have to spend two years in the military, and therefore, do not forget what they have learnt," he said, pointing out that computer science is a "fast changing field." [passage omitted]

In the past year, the members of the society have been preparing for "Amman Computer Expo" which will be held in March 1989; and holding bimonthly lectures on computer topics such as data communication, computer management and computer development. [passage omitted]

Moreover, the society has been involved with government personnel in order to remove custom duties from all computer components. 'Abdallah explained that although there are no taxes on computers as such, "if a computer screen is ordered on its own, it is taxed just like a television set would be, and similarly with software. The disks are listed in the same category as musical records for tax purposes."

Contacts with the government are also continued to encourage government institutions to computerise their systems. "In general, Jordan is less computerised than the Gulf states, and a lot less than Israel," he said, pointing out as an example that out of the 33 insurance companies (the number before the merger of some) only five companies have mini-computer systems.

'Abdallah believes that one of the main reasons behind Jordan's underdevelopment in the computer field is "lack of awareness among the top management people in both the private and public sectors."

According to him, there is local expertise in computers, however, top managers and decisionmakers do not refer to the local expertise or the juniors in the company "who know a lot about computers." "Instead, they (managers and decisionmakers) turn to foreign expertise," which 'Abdallah admits may help Jordan in "some very specialised fields."

"But they may not always have the appropriate expertise for Jordan," he stressed. The society aims to attract national expertise in the computer field and direct it towards local needs. [passage omitted]

Further plans of the society include establishing a library which includes the leading computer publications. "These publications are essential to allow professionals to follow-up on the latest developments in the hardware and software technology," he said. 'Abdallah finds this field especially important to Jordan since "we are behind in developing indigenous software." More importance has been accorded to hardware and the expense of software, he said, citing that while 80 per cent of training is done on hardware, only 11 per cent is done on software. These figures are far from the 50/50 ratios currently in other countries.

However, he believes that since the Jordanian government has decided to introduce 2,000 computers to schools over the next five years, "there is a good opportunity for the development of educational programme software, which can later be exported to Arab countries."

Regional and international conferences to expose Jordanian computer professionals to the latest in computer technology is also on the society's future agenda.

AL-RA'Y Views Efforts for Peace in Lebanon

JN2610104088 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
26 Oct 88 p 1

[Editorial: "Lebanon and the Arab Responsibility"]

[Text] No other Arab people on the soil of their homeland have suffered and continue to suffer as much as the fraternal Lebanese people. We can also say that no other people in this world and age have suffered as much bloodshed, terror and destruction as the Lebanese people and territory. Throughout these many long years of insecurity, instability, continuous infighting, and alliances and counteralliances, Lebanon—dear to every Arab citizen—has continued to face disasters and misery and overcome one crisis after another without any sign of a final salvation. This can only be achieved through the Lebanese people's consensus on the unity of their homeland and their affiliation to this nation.

Yesterday, His Majesty King Husayn received a message from his brother President Hafiz al-Asad. It was conveyed to his majesty by Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, and deals with the Arab and Lebanese situations. We, in Jordan, have always announced our clear-cut position on the Lebanese crisis, and have exerted every effort to end the crisis in order to restore this Arab country's security and stability and strengthen its unity and affiliation.

The brothers in Syria have also exerted such efforts because Lebanon's security and stability are part of the Arab security and stability, and because Lebanon's affiliation to its nation is part of the greater affiliation of millions of Arabs to their homeland. Hence, any contact, consultation, and coordination in the Arab arena for the sake of the one goal of Lebanon's salvation and unity will certainly lead to a joint effort and to turning the unified Arab position on the Lebanese crisis into persistent action to end this fraternal country's tragedy and restore its health and role.

It is hoped that the current Arab consensus on seeking a solution will end what happened and is still happening in Lebanon. As there is no winner in this continuous tragedy, any departure from this situation will be a real gain for all the Lebanese citizens and territories. We know that the Lebanese will never relinquish Lebanon's unity and affiliation and that the Arabs will support them in their national and pan-Arab eagerness to preserve Lebanon and resume its normal role. We hope that current active bilateral Arab contacts will lead to this goal, and there is no doubt they will achieve that goal and mobilize all the energies to confront the challenges that threaten the homeland.

Italy Accused of 'Plotting' Against Islamic Jihad

NC2710110388 Paris AFP in English 1047 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Beirut, Oct 27 (AFP)—The pro-Iranian Shi'ite group Islamic Jihad, which is holding two American hostages, on Thursday accused Italy of plotting against it.

The group, in a communique received by a Western news agency here, said Italy was cooperating with U.S. and Israeli intelligence agencies in the plot.

The group is holding U.S. journalist Terry Anderson, 40, of THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, and Thomas Sutherland, the dean of agronomics at the American University of Beirut (AUB).

A picture of Mr. Anderson was found last week by Italian anti-terrorist police in the luggage of a Lebanese woman who flew into Milan from Beirut.

Islamic Jihad on Monday denied any links with the woman, identified by the Italian authorities as Aline Rizqallah.

On Tuesday the Italian police said the picture of Mr. Anderson and another Alann Steen, a U.S. professor who was kidnapped from the campus of Beirut University College in West Beirut, were reproductions of old photos.

Further on Charges

NC2710114388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] In a statement to a foreign news agency in Beirut, the Islamic Jihad organization has accused Italy of collaborating with Israeli and U.S. intelligence bodies to implement a plot against it in the issue of Lebanese lady Aline Rizqallah, who was arrested in Milan last week.

Fadlallah on 'Complications' in Hostage Issue

NC2710175888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has disclosed that new complications have surfaced in the issue of the foreign hostages. In an interview to be carried tomorrow by the news agency the Arab world [previous two words in English], Fadlallah said that the Islamic resistance in Lebanon and the Palestinian uprising are holding exchanges in complete secrecy and in many fields. The aim, he added, is to escalate the confrontation against Israel both in the south and in the West Bank and Gaza.

Further on 'Secret Contacts'

NC2710203288 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah today told the Arab world news agency that secret contacts are being held between the Islamic resistance in Lebanon and the strugglers in the occupied territories. Fadlallah said the contacts are being held secretly and cover many areas with the aim of escalating Islamic resistance against Israeli occupation both in the south and in the West Bank and Gaza.

Concerning the issue of foreign hostages, Fadlallah said that new complications have surfaced. The reason for these complications, he said, is that those who hold the hostages have begun to feel that the hostage question should be used to resolve some of the problems of the mujahidin in the region. The question used to be approached differently, Fadlallah said.

General 'Awn on 'Readiness' To Visit Damascus

NC2610160488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has expressed the hope that the U.S.-Syrian agreement over the Lebanese presidential elections will be amended. In an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AL-SIYASAH, 'Awn called for establishing a balanced relationship with Damascus and expressed his readiness to visit the Syrian capital once he is convinced this will help save Lebanon.

Discusses Syria's 'Influence'

NC2710121588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] In an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS today, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn affirmed that Syria is exercising its influence in Lebanon on behalf of the Lebanese regime. He said that Syria came to Lebanon to eliminate certain odd conditions but turned into a chief of police and director of public security. He stressed that what Lebanon seeks is balanced relations with Damascus. He emphasized the Lebanese choice of the Army and the cleanliness of the present government.

Ja'ja' Vows To End Syrian Involvement

NC2810102988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] In an interview with REUTER today, Lebanese Forces commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' has emphasized that he is determined to end Syria's involvement in Lebanon's affairs. Dr Ja'ja' reiterated his rejection of partition and added that Syria is a foreign country which invaded Lebanon. He went on to say that Lebanon's principal problem rests in the Syrian presence.

The Lebanese Forces commander noted that the Syrians should not prevent a Lebanese accord and, consequently, we must settle our differences with the other side. Dr Ja'ja' proposed that a peace-keeping force should include Arab forces under UN auspices.

Syrian Military Delegation Visits W. Beirut

NC2810071588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] To counter the expanding circle of support for convening of a special Arab summit to deal with the Lebanese situation, a Syrian military delegation has suddenly arrived in West Beirut and begun visiting its leaders.

The delegation is led by Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of intelligence of the Syrian forces in Lebanon, and it includes Syrian forces commander Colonel Sa'id Bayraqdar, Beirut Brigade commander Major General Zuhayr Musaytif, and Syrian Chief Observer Brigadier General 'Ali Hammud.

The delegation met yesterday with former Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, former Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, and Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri. The delegation will meet with other political and spiritual leaders in West Beirut today.

Salim al-Huss Cancels Appointments 27 Oct

NC2710102988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Dr Salim al-Huss cancelled his appointments today because of indisposition.

Forces Close Al-Jumayyil 'Right-Wing' Paper

NC2710085588 Paris AFP in English 0842 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Beirut, Oct 27 (AFP)—A right-wing newspaper owned by former President Amin al-Jumayyil closed for one month starting Thursday, a few weeks after the Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia took control of the publication.

The management of the French-language LE REVEIL said that an editorial and technical re-organisation would take place during the temporary closure.

Earlier this month, the LF bolstered its military hold over Christian east Beirut when it seized positions, a radio and various services controlled by groups loyal to Mr. al-Jumayyil.

Analysts said, then, that the LF takeover would deprive Mr. al-Jumayyil of his political base in the Al-Matn region just north of Beirut.

Mr. al-Jumayyil ended his non-renewable mandate in September and was reportedly hoping to return to regional politics and to assume the presidency of his father's Phalangist Party.

Magazine Says Al-Jumayyil To Live in Paris

NC2710174588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] According to the magazine L'EVENEMENT DU JEUDI, former President Amin al-Jumayyil has decided to live in the French capital. The magazine estimated Al-Jumayyil's assets abroad to be worth approximately $1.2 billion. The magazine said that Al-Jumayyil owns a hotel and three apartments in Paris.

PSP Denounces Islamic Grouping's Position

NC2710141088 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Excerpts] The PSP Information Bureau issued a statement today commenting on the recent position taken by the Islamic Grouping which, it said, is contrary to the basic premises of nationalist thinking.

The statement says:

First, the eagerness of the Islamic Grouping to preserve the unity of public institutions and government departments contains an implicit recognition of the partitionist and hegemonist policies of the isolationist clique and their insurgent forces. This approach does not help defend the unity of these institutions.

The opposition of the Islamic Grouping to the commitment of the legitimate government headed by Dr Salim al-Huss to its duty of supervising the institutions and filling vacant public posts constitutes an acceptance of the hegemonist policies which the isolationist clique is forcing on these institutions and government departments. The Islamic Grouping is thus accepting the illegitimate decisions of the sectarian clique.

Second, in its rejection of what it describes as partisan militias, the Islamic Grouping is virtually calling for the nationalist areas to be disarmed and emptied of the elements of resistance to the isolationist scheme. [passage omitted]

Third, the Islamic Grouping's objection to the idea of civilian administration is actually a call for chaos in the nationalist areas, a state of affairs that could only please the isolationist clique which is seeking to cripple services and undermine living conditions in these areas. [passage omitted]

SLA, 'Extremist' Groups Continue Clashes

NC2710072288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Intermittent clashes are still taking place between South Lebanese Army [SLA] troops and extremist organizations along the Kafr Falus combat lines. SLA troops carried out a limited advance operation against areas east of Sidon yesterday afternoon, during which a position manned by members of the Abu Nidal-led Fatah Revolutionary Council was destroyed.

Three members of the Abu Nidal group were killed, including Abu Rabi' [not further identified] and three injured. Three others were captured during the operation, which also left two SLA soldiers wounded.

The SLA troops withdrew from the posts which they had occupied for 4 hours. However, they retained the strategic Tallat al-Bayda' position until nightfall. [passage omitted]

The SLA has warned the gunmen in the South that should the border areas again be bombarded it will retaliate and strike blows at Sidon.

Islamic Resistance Attacks Lahd Patrol

NC2710142288 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] The Islamic resistance has announced that its engineering unit planted an explosive charge on Sujud road this morning and detonated it as a Lahd patrol, consisting of a jeep and 12 personnel, was passing. The explosion left one agent dead and four wounded.

The Islamic resistance also shelled the agent militia's position in Sujud with artillery, killing and wounding some of their personnel.

Further on Israeli Military Operations

Warplanes Fly Reconnaissance

NC2710124388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] REUTER reports today that the extremist religious militia and Palestinian fighters in the South are fortifying their positions with antiaircraft guns as a precaution against new Israeli air raids.

In the meantime, Israeli warplanes carried out several reconnaissance flights over armed positions extending from the South to Al-Shuf this morning.

Palestinians Rotate Forces

NC2710125788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] A state of alert and watchfulness prevails among the positions of the Palestinians and leftist organizations in east Sidon, Iqlim al-Tuffah, Iqlim al-Kharrub, and the Al-Shuf coast. According to security reports received by the Voice of Lebanon, the Palestinian organizations carried out a wide-scale rotation of their elements in the Al-Damur hills, Harat al-Na'imah, Khaldah, and 'Aramun in the wake of the Israeli raids yesterday.

According to these reports, the Palestinians drove their military vehicles into factories in Harat al-Na'imah to protect them. Moreover, a concentration of Syrian vehicles has been seen inside the power plant in Al-Jiyah.

Helicopters Overfly Hasbayya

NC2710194188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Israeli helicopters overflew Zummarayya and Shwayya in Hasbayya District at 1830. The helicopters fired illumination flares and drew antiaircraft fire.

Air, Naval Activity Reported

NC2710202388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Israeli warplanes flew at high altitude over Sidon and Al-Nabatiyah at 2020 today.

Meanwhile, Israeli naval activity was monitored along the coast between Sidon and Al-Sarafand.

Tension continued to prevail on the Kafr Falus front. [passage omitted]

Positions Reinforced

NC2810063588 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] According to reports from southern Lebanon, the occupation forces have dispatched large military reinforcements to the South, particularly to Al-Shumariyah and 'Alman. The Israeli forces had in the meantime reinforced their positions on the ridges overlooking the Al-Khiyam area and their armored car assembly point in Ibil al-Saqy. The occupation forces have created two barracks in Kawkaba and Al-'Ayshiyah.

Fatah Leader Killed

NC2710155188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] According to security sources in the South, one of Fatah's senior leaders in Lebanon, Mustafa Dawud, was killed in the Israeli raids on Al-Miyah Wa Miyah camp yesterday.

'General Mobilization' Declared

NC2810070388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0645 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] Intermittent clashes are still taking place between South Lebanese Army troops and Islamic extremist organizations along the Kafr Falus combat lines. Meanwhile, a state of general mobilization has been declared among the ranks of the so-called nationalist forces and Palestinian factions in Sidon, nearby camps, and areas east of Sidon as a precautionary measure against any possible Israeli offensives.

Syrians Said Reinforcing Positions in Upper Al-Matn

NC2710185788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Oct 88

[text] A security report has revealed that the Syrian forces in upper Al-Matn have been fortifying their positions for about 1 week now. The report added that special units from these forces, led by Colonel Hashim al-Mu'alla, have been deployed in the areas of Bulunya, 'Aynturah, Al-Masatib, and Sannin.

The report also said that Syria has recently supplied the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] in upper Al-Matn with ammunition.

The SSNP has issued invitations to attend a live-fire exercise by a SSNP brigate in the Sannin area on Sunday [30 October] at 0700.

Hizballah Accuses Amal of Kidnapping 2 Members

NC2710071388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Hizballah accused the Amal Movement of injuring two of its members and of kidnapping two others in an ambush in Beirut's southern suburb yesterday. Hizballah added that Amal gunmen opened fire at a Hizballah ambulance which was transporting a wounded person on the airport road. The Amal gunmen, according to Hizballah, arrested the wounded and the driver and injured two others in the car.

'Violent' Amal-Hizballah Fighting Erupts 27 Oct

NC2810062788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Violent clashes broke out between Amal and Hizballah gunmen in Al-Ghubayrah and Al-Musharrafiyah [in Beirut's southern suburb] last night. Rockets and machineguns were used in the fighting. The military confrontation between the two sides erupted in light of extremely sensitive developments in the Islamic and leftist arena.

The most important factor in these developments is the return of Hizballah personnel to the South and their recent confrontation with Israeli forces and the South Lebanese Army. Last night's clashes coincide with moves being conducted by the Islamic organizations' officials in Tehran and Damascus. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Visit of Austrian President Waldheim

Delegation Arrives 27 Oct

JN2710171688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Austrian President Dr Kurt Waldheim and his wife arrived in Damascus at 1615 today on an official and cordial visit to Syria at President Hafiz al-Asad's invitation. Leading those who received them at Damascus International Airport were President Hafiz al-Asad and his wife. [passage omitted]

The Austrian president is accompanied by an official delegation comprising Dr Alois Mock, vice chancellor and minister of foreign affairs, and a number of Austrian officials. He is also accompanied by an economic delegation comprising economic officials and representatives of major Austrian companies.

Al-Asad, Waldheim Hold Talks

JN2710194788 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] At 1800 today, talks between President Hafiz al-Asad and Austrian President Kurt Waldheim began at a closed meeting at the Presidential Palace. Discussion revolved around issues pertaining to the international situation and the situation and developments in the Middle East.

On the other hand, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Alois Mock, Austrian vice chancellor and foreign minister, this evening. The meeting was attended by 'Adnan Nashshabah, director of the West Europe Department; Dr (Iddish Schmidt), director general of the political department of the Austrian Foreign Ministry; and Dr Josef Mageri, the Austrian ambassador to Syria. Talks revolved around the international situation, the current situation in the region, and issues of mutual interest.

Al-Asad Banquet Speech

JN2810071288 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 2102 GMT 27 oct 88

[Speech by President Hafiz al-Asad at banquet in Damascus on 27 October in honor of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim—recorded]

[Text] Honorable Austrian President Dr Kurt Waldheim, honorable Mrs Waldheim, dear Austrian guests, ladies and gentlemen: It is a happy occasion to meet tonight in honor of Syria's dear guests, President Kurt Waldheim and Mrs Waldheim. It greatly pleases me to welcome them and the accompanying members of the Austrian delegation most warmly.

I would like to seize the opportunity of Austria's celebration of its national day yesterday to express again my congratulations and sincere wishes to President Waldheim and the friendly Austrian people. It gives us great pleasure that this visit is the first to Syria by an Austrian president. The visit gives us a chance to express our appreciation of and respect for President Waldheim and to express through him our friendship and amity with the Austrian people.

Honorable President, it is true that you are visiting us for the first time in your capacity as president of the Republic of Austria, but we met during your assumption of the post of UN secretary general. We sensed the sublime traits you enjoy and the noble values to which you adhere. We have known your persistent, honest, and honorable work for peace among nations. Your election as president of the Republic came to emphasize the Austrian people's faith in the values in which you believe—especially the principles of the UN Charter which you have always respected—and worked for. Honorable stands enjoy the backing and support of all honorable people in the world.

These stands are denied and antagonized only by those who cling to falsehood and have aggressive whims and interests. By recalling your integrity and neutrality as UN secretary general, I am only expressing my conviction and that of our people, who respected and appreciated your stands. I would like to add to this our appreciation of the stands adopted by your country and government and your commitment to work for international peace and understanding in Europe and the world, something that made your country gain the full respect of its neighbors and all other countries.

Many of our people have known Austria and attended its universities or managed through visits there to acquaint themselves with its beautiful nature and enjoy the sweet tunes of the homeland of Hyden and Mozart. They have returned to praise the gentleness of your people and the fair treatment of your country's guests. We have always been keen to promote our bilateral relations and expand the spheres of cooperation on the basis of true friendship. I trust that your visit will be an important juncture in the promotion and consolidation of the Syrian-Austrian relations. I believe there are great chances to achieve this goal.

Honorable President, you have so much experience in international affairs and such an acquaintance with the major issues preoccupying the world's attention that I must avoid explaining the situation in our region in detail. Nevertheless, allow me to say that the hoped for peace in this region is still as it has been over the past years—an unattainable objective for those working honestly for its sake. This is because every sincere effort to achieve peace is obstructed by Israel, which clings to the occupied Arab territories and adheres to expansionist objectives.

Israel continues to reject the convening of a UN-sponsored international conference for peace in the region attended by all concerned parties and the permanent UN Security Council member states. Israel's rejection of this method, which will lead to a just peace, means its

insistence on the continuation of occupation; denial of the Palestinian Arab people's rights; and, subsequently, maintaining the volatile situation in the region despite the danger the continuation of this situation poses to peace in the region and the world.

The Palestinian Arab people's uprising, the Syrian Arab citizens' continuous rebellion in the Golan Heights against occupation, and the Lebanese resistance against the Israeli occupiers emphasize that occupation cannot last and that dangerous prospects are open. The core of this conflict is the Palestine question. Any solution that neither guarantees the recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's national rights, including the establishment of their state, nor guarantees Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories will be contrary to peace, as we saw in the results of the Camp David accords. These accords were disastrous to the region. Under them, the Israeli aggressions increased. The ugliest of these was the the invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

The Palestine question has been ramified [tasha'abat] because the forces of colonialism, which created the problem, were planning from the beginning to divide the Arab homeland in the service of the objectives of Zionism, which can impose its hegemony over this region only within the framework of partition and successive partition.

Sisterly Lebanon is now being exposed to a divisionist plot through civil war. We have been trying to extinguish the fire of this war and protect Lebanon against the partition scheme since 1976 through a national Lebanese reconciliation based on reforms in the Lebanese system, which all the Lebanese admit should be made.

However, Israel's interference in Lebanon through military force, invasion, conspiracy, and the attraction of some Lebanese elements toward it has enabled the plot of partition continue and threaten Lebanon—entity and system—with its people and constitutional institutions. We do not exaggerate when we say that these Lebanese elements, which extend a hand to Israel and cooperate with it, are like the one who allows a venomous serpent into his house, unaware that it will suddenly destroy him and all his family. Under the influence of temporary interests, these elements ignore that Syria is the brother that is most eager to safeguard Lebanon. Neverthless, we in Syria will spare no effort to rescue Lebanon from its crisis. We will continue our sincere, brotherly efforts to enable Lebanon recover.

Mr President, the world has recently witnessed developments, some of which have not taken their full dimesion while others are still at the beginning. War between Iraq and Iran has stopped, although the agreement to cease it has not yet gone through all stages of implementation. Geneva agreements have also been concluded on an end to the war in Afghanistan, although the conflict there is continuing. The two superpowers reached an agreement on the elimination and destruction of short- and medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe. This agreement may be a prelude to more comprehensive disarmament agreements. We welcomed these developments as positive signs.

Right from the beginning we considered the Iraq-Iran war a futile, destructive war, which benefited only the enemies of the two peoples in the two warring countries. Also right from the beginning we stressed the need to end the war in Afghanistan in a manner that achieves the interests of the Afghan people and guarantees a nonaligned status for Afghanistan. We have always called for supporting and encouraging disarmament initiatives. We in Syria have always called for peaceful solutions to world crises and problems through the United Nations, and we have always stressed the need to enhance the UN role in spreading peace and defending the peoples' rights.

Regardless of the changes overtaking the world at this stage, we believe that principles remain unchanged, and the general values in which mankind believes remain genuine and unalterable. The peoples' right to self-determination, choice of system, independence, sovereignty, and equality among peoples—be they small or large—and these peoples' right to utilize their national wealth for their welfare and the welfare of all mankind are principles that we must strongly defend.

We also believe it is our duty to support the peoples defending their rights and to act in solidarity with all forces of good against the forces of evil—the forces of colonialism and racism in all their forms and systems. Accordingly, Syria is fully and actively performing its role in the Nonaligned Movement and other international bodies.

The world's nations are facing challenges that urge them to close ranks to overcome them. Most prominent among these is the challenge of disarmament and the establishment of a just world economic order. Therefore, efforts should be redoubled to face up to these challenges.

Mr President, I would like to mention with appreciation your citizens who are performing a mission in Syria within the framework of the United Nations. They enjoy our people's appreciation for their work, behavior, and performance. Allow me at the end again to welcome you, your wife, and your delegation. I hope that you will spend happy days in our country during which you can further acquaint yourselves with Syria and its people. I trust that this visit and the talks we will hold will strengthen friendship and cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Austria.

Ladies and gentlemen, may I ask you to rise in salutation to President Waldheim and his wife, wishing them continued good health and happiness. A greeting to the friendly Austrian people, wishing them continued prosperity. [applause]

Waldheim Delivers Dinner Speech

JN2810073188 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 2114 GMT 27 Oct 88

["Text" of speech by Austrian President Dr Kurt Waldheim at banquet hosted in his honor by President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus on 27 October—read by announcer]

[Text] Your Excellency the President, ladies and gentlemen: Allow me, Your Excellency the President, to express profound thanks for the invitation you extended to me in your capacity as president of the Syrian Arab Republic in July 1986, shortly after I was elected federal president of the Republic of Austria. Also, I would like to thank you for your cordial welcoming speech you have just delivered to me, my wife, and the delegation accompanying me.

The sentiments of cordiality and affection for us that Syria's citizens spontaneously demonstrated have deeply touched all of us. Today, I gladly recall my repeated visits to Syria as UN secretary general. I became acquainted with the Syrian Arab Republic in 1974 when duty called for healing the wounds resulting from one of the numerous hateful wars that have shaken this region in its modern history.

I return to your beautiful country today as federal president of the Republic of Austria while greatly admiring the huge construction achievements of Syria in these years. Despite my brief stay today, I could see with my own eyes the great changes that have turned Damascus into a modern, dynamic city. I am convinced that the tour of your country that we will soon make will give us further evidence of this great work achieved by Syria under your leadership as head of state and builder of modern Syria.

No doubt, such work required the exertion of efforts by all strata of citizens, including peasants, workers, students, engineers, and the public and private sectors. However, the basic condition for such an achievement is the stable internal security and cooperation that guarantees equal rights among all strata of the people and among the various religious and ethnic groups whose commmon homeland is Syria.

The building of the Al-Asad dam, the expansion of the roads network, and the several universities in which more than 150,000 students are pursuing knowledge are both examples and expressions of the willpower for construction by a people who, with their long history, are one of the most ancient of the world's peoples. Hence, Syria's great history is linked today to its people's developed standard of living and the expansion of the country's economic capabilities. We are proud because all this has been made possible despite many wars and tensions that Syria had to face previously and still faces in this part of the Middle East.

Today, we are witnesses to a comprehensive detente among the major powers in our world. In Europe, this detente is manifested in the field of disarmament. It is also manifested in negotiations to ease conflicts in Africa, Asia, and Central America. The United Nations is playing an increasingly important role through its mediation activity.

Austria believes that the Middle East should not be separated from this development. Also in this region, the vicious circle of confrontation and violence should be ultimately broken because this circle always yields new conflicts and wars. Moreover, this circle should be replaced by a fruitful, peaceful, and natural coexistence among all peoples in this region. Therefore, Austria has always tried to play a role which, although it may be modest, is based on the conviction that a settlement should be attained in the Middle East. Our Middle East policy is a consistent and long term.

Regarding a political solution to the Middle East problem, Austria supports the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. It also supports Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, the recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and the participation of their representative, the PLO, in the negotiations. Consequently, the Austrian Federal Government supported from the very beginning the idea of an international conference for peace in the Middle East under UN auspices.

The participation by all parties to the conflict, including Palestinians and their representative, the PLO, and the permanent Security Council members will guarantee the possibility of finding a peaceful solution that takes into account Israel's right to be recognized and to secure borders, and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Resolving the Palestinians' problem constitutes the essence of a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. For months, this has been manifested before our eyes by the popular uprising in the West Bank and Gaza. Austria has always expressed great readiness to help the Palestinians, whether through direct aid campaigns to the camps in West Beirut or through the Vienna-based UNRWA. We deeply regret the escalation of violence and bloodshed in the occupied territories.

We also condemn all human rights violations. A comprehensive and just settlement of the Palestine question is the only solution that can restore calm to the region and make a valuable contribution to combatting international terrorism, whose roots have been frequently present in the Middle East. Austria shares the concern over terrorism expressed in the Syrian initiative—an initiative calling for a conference to discuss the problem of terrorism.

While the truce in the Gulf war fills our souls with hope, we follow with profound concern the developments in Lebanon. There, it is also true that only dialogue and negotiations—not weapons and aggression—can lead to national reconciliation. Reason and readiness to accept compromise should be accepted by the people of Lebanon so that they will abandon hatred and emotional reactions.

We are aware that calls to resort to reason do not frequently receive a favorable response if they are not supported by tangible measures. Therefore, Austria has always participated in UN peace-keeping actions. Austria sent observers to suprervise international agreements in Afghanistan and the Gulf. Moreover, there are Austrian peace-keeping units in Cyprus and the Golan. Hence, we are particularly proud that the Nobel peace prize this year was granted to the UN peacekeeping forces, in which Austria is prominently represented.

On this occasion, allow me to express thanks for the good welcome accorded everywhere in Syria to thousands of Austrians who have served in UN forces to supervise the disengagements of forces throughout the years. The participation by many Austrians in the peace-keeping task carried out by the UNDOF [United Nations Disengagement Observer Force] has brought our two countries closer. Geography no longer plays as great a role as before in our modern, technologically developed world, when citizens from various countries become further acquainted with each other and when their mutual understanding increases, as is the case with Austria and Syria.

Relations between Austria and Syria are diversified and have lengthy historic traditions. Here I recall the visits by Austrian researcher and historian (Louis Mosel) at the beginning of this century. Many Syrians pursued their studies in Austria, and numerous Austrian tourists have been acquainted with the rich Syrian archeological discoveries and cultural treasures. Moreover, Austrian experts cooperated with a Swiss company to establish a large power station in Muhradah.

Despite the economic problems worldwide, there certainly are possibilities to promote and enhance economic cooperation between our two countries. Trade relations between Austria and the Arab region, including Syria, have much exceeded the norm from 1965 to 1985. Although we could not follow up this development in the past 2 years, we are convinced that the minimum level has been attained. Here the first signs of slowly growing development can be discovered, and we will have an opportunity to discuss our bilateral economic relations in all their aspects.

Oil production is quickly increasing in Syria. The new 5-year develoment plan will give fresh impetus to promoting agriculture. Furthermore, tourism will discover Syria's historic treasures and the natural beauty of its beaches on the Mediterranean Sea. In the future, it will not be sufficient for us to have only trade exchanges and products' sales; we should search for new types of economic cooperation.

It is possible to compile and exchange knowledge, modern technology, and expertise for the benefit of both the Austrian and Syrian economies. We are ready to study these horizons to enhance our economic relations with Syria. The huge Syrian construction acheivements, which I pointed out earlier, will increase our hopes in this regard. With this cordial spirit, would all of you please toast His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad as well as a successful and happy future for the Syrian people?

Paper on 'Zionist Campaign' Against Waldheim

JN2810075188 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Oct 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline, "Peace Is the Antithesis of the Zionist Concept," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says:

The entire world knows Israel's practices and that these practices are identical to those of the racist apparatus in South Africa. Nevertheless, the Zionist leaders claim that they are concerned about security and human rights. At the same time, they launch their frenzied campaigns against international personalities, like Kurt Waldheim, who was chosen by the international will as the UN chief for two successive terms in recognition of his integrity, impartiality, and work for the welfare of humanity.

The paper indicates that we in Syria as well as all peoples of the globe know that the Zionist campaign against Austrian President Waldheim is due to his support for the UN resolution considering Zionism a form of racism, especially since the Austrian president has experience with the racist Nazi oppression, from which he suffered psychologically, socially, and on all levels.

Concluding its comment, AL-BA'TH affirms that peace in our region will remain threatened as long as Zionist racism controls the ruling mentality in the Zionist entity.

Al-Asad Receives Iranian Foreign Minister Velayti

JN2810123888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Mohsen Rafiq-Dust, adviser to Iranian Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, at 1145 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Iranian Ambassador in Damascus Mohammad Hasan Akhtari attended the audience.

Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his delegation arrived in Damascus this morning. He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Faruq al-Shar', the chief of protocol, Foreign Ministry officials, and the Iranian ambassadaor and Iranian Embassy staff in Damascus.

Al-Asad Receives Phone Call From King Husayn

JN2710195288 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received a phone call from His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan. Discussion revolved around bilateral relations and the situation in the region.

Al-Asad Reportedly To Visit USSR in November

JN2810145488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1435 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] London, 28 Oct (WAKH)—The London-based newspaper AL-HAYAH published quotes from East European diplomatic sources in Beirut today saying that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will pay a visit to the Soviet Union during the second half of November.

The sources pointed out that the visit will concentrate on discussing relations between the two countries, including economic and military cooperation and the situation in the Middle East.

Foreign Minister Al-Shar' Returns From Gulf Tour

JN2710150688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus this afternoon after conveying messages from President Hafiz al-Asad to the heads of state and amirs of Kuwait, the UAE, the Sultanate of Oman, Bahrain, and Qatar. [passage omitted]

YSP Delegation, Ba'th Party Issue Communique

JN2710143988 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] A YSP delegation led by Comrade Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the YSP Central Committee Political Bureau, left Damascus today. Heading those seeing the delegation off at Damascus International Airport were Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, a number of party officials, and the PDRY ambassador in Damascus and the embassy staff.

A joint communique was issued at the conclusion of the talks between the Yemeni delegation and an Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation. In this communique the Yemeni delegation expressed great appreciation for the multi-dimension achievements realized by the Syrian Arab people under the Ba'th Party leadership and its secretary general, comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad. The delegation also expressed support for Syria's principled and constant policy of confronting the Israeli aggression and imperialist and Zionist schemes in the region.

For its part, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation expressed great appreciation for the achievements and progressive transformations which have been accomplished throughout the march of the revolution on the path of accomplishing the revolution's nationalist and democratic tasks with their socialist dimensions under the YSP.

The PDRY side highly appreciated the Syrian Arab role in Lebanon and the importance of this role in enabling Lebanon to achieve its nationalist objectives and maintain its independence, sovereignty, and unity—both land and people.

The two sides also expressed full support for the Lebanese nationalist resistance. They indicated that solving the Lebanese problem can only be achieved through the achievement of national accord and constitutional reforms on the basis of maintaining Lebanon's unity and Arabism.

The two sides denounced the suspect attempts at imposing sectarian, isolationist hegemony aimed at confiscating the Lebanese people's right to maintain their unity and Arabism and at jeopardizing this unity through the ghost of fragmentation and schemes of partition. They stressed support for the Lebanese Arab people in confronting the Zionist-isolationist scheme.

The two delegations gave special attention to the tense situation in the region resulting from the Zionist entity's continued aggressive policy and continued occupation of the Arab land with U.S. support within the framework of their strategic alliance aimed at imposing imperialist hegemony on the Arab land. The two sides also affirmed that a just peace in the area can only be achieved through the complete and comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and establishment of the Palestinian Arab people's national, legitimate rights. They announced support for the convocation of a fully-authorized international conference in which all concerned parties participate.

They also expressed full solidarity with and support for the Palestinian Arab people's heroic uprising in the occupied Arab land. They also expressed appreciation and support for our kinfolk's steadfastness in occupied Golan Heights and for the Syrian Arab citizens' valiant resistance manifested through their rejection of Zionist identity cards, adherence to their Syrian Arab identity, and resistance of annexation attempts.

The two sides welcomed Iran's approval of the UN Security Council Resolution No 598. They expressed support for the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran and for the UN role to end the Iraq-Iran war.

The two sides also expressed full support for the Soviet Union's peaceful policy to terminate hotbeds of tension, achieve international detente, and entrench international security and peace.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Willing To Meet With USSR Envoy

BK2710163288 Hong Kong AFP in English 1631 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 27 (AFP)—Afghan rebels have said they are ready to meet Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov, who two weeks ago became Moscow's ambassador to Kabul, diplomatic sources here said Thursday.

B. Rabbani, president of the Peshawar-based seven-party rebel alliance, said the mujahidin could meet Mr. Vorontsov "in Peshawar or elsewhere" in his capacity as Soviet deputy foreign minister, the sources said.

They would not meet him as an ambassador, as Afghan rebels do not recognize the Kabul government to which he has presented his credentials.

Mr. Rabbani met Wednesday with two British [words indistinct] Deputy Undersecretary of State David Gillmore and London's ambassador to Islamabad. On Saturday he met privately with the Spanish and Swedish ambassadors.

A Soviet Embassy spokesman in Islamabad said Wednesday that Moscow had decided to have "direct contact with the representatives of Afghanistan's armed opposition" to discuss Soviet prisoners of war in the country.

Soviet Ambassador to Pakistan Viktor Yakunin has asked Pakistani Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan to arrange the meeting, the Soviet Embassy said.

The Pakistani foreign minister has said he hopes the meetings will lead to the formation of an interim coalition government in Afghanistan.

Rabbani Says Soviet Actions Jeopardize Peace

BK2710164888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1639 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 27 (AFP)—The Soviet Union has airlifted a new type of high altitude bomber and jet to Afghanistan and fortified Afghan air fields with long-range artillery in a move which might jeopardise peace prospects in Afghanistan, the head of the Afghan rebels said here Thursday.

"The latest Soviet reinforcements have created a dangerous military development," Burhanuddin Rabbani, current chairman of the seven-party Afghan mujahidin alliance, told a press conference here.

The reinforcements started three weeks ago and include high altitude bombers, a new type of jet, and long range BM-41 artillery pieces, he said.

The new aircraft have been flown to western Shindand air base and the major Afghan Government bases in Kabul, Bagaram and Mazar-e Sharif are being fortified, he added.

For the past two weeks, the Soviet Air Force has been dropping thousands of mines along the routes and valleys in western Herat Province, he said.

"We don't know how sincere the Soviets are. On the one hand, they are inviting the refugees (from Iran and Pakistan) to return home and on the other they are seeding new mines on the routes they would follow," he said.

Replying to a question, he said "we don't know the motive" behind the reinforcements and sarcastically added "it could be part of the 600 million dollars in Soviet aid" for a U.N. program to rebuild Afghanistan.

The Soviet actions, which come less than four months ahead of the February 15 deadline for removal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, "could jeopardise the Geneva accord of April 14," he said. The Soviet Union is committed under the U.N.-brokered Geneva accord to withdraw its 115,000 troops by mid-February.

When asked whether the rebels plan to retaliate against the new weapons deliveries, he said: "I have said on several occasions that we will not disturb the withdrawal—rather, we would be ready to assist in their speedy pullout." But he added that the rebels "will certainly not be silent on this change of Soviet policy."

Informed sources here confirmed that the Soviets have reinforced air and ground forces, saying the Soviet air fleet has been beefed up with new bomber and fighter aircraft. They also confirmed that Soviet planes had dropped mines in areas considered vulnerable, but they could not confirm Mr. Rabbani's claim that the Soviets had installed BM-41 artillery pieces.

Other resistance sources in the Pakistan border town of Quetta said the Soviets last week introduced a new type of helicopter that is "very small and very fast" and was being used to shell rebel bases. The rebels could not identify the machine but they have nicknamed it the "guerrilla helicopter," they said. The helicopters are causing heavy losses among rebels deployed close to airports, they said.

The sources said the Soviet-backed Afghan Government has called for heavy reinforcements to save Qandahar, Afghanistan's second-biggest city, as rebel pressure builds around the main airport, where Soviet troops are housed.

Sayyaf Interviewed on Factions, Withdrawal

PM2710141588 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 19 Oct 88 p 8

[Interview with 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, leader of the Islamic Revolution group, by Badr al-Ghanimi in Peshawar; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-Ghanimi] How true are the reports that the Soviets have returned to Afghanistan after the completion of the first phase of withdrawal under the Geneva agreement?

[Sayyaf] Russia is well aware that its withdrawal from Afghanistan will be followed by the immediate fall of the Kabul regime. So the Soviets' return is not a surprise; it has been expected. Forget about their propagandistic agreement.

Russia came originally to kill, destroy, and exploit the country's resources. Whatever its justifications for its withdrawal or return under that agreement, it will be defeated and expelled from our country by the help of Almighty God and by the will and blessing of the great jihad. [passage omitted]

[Al-Ghanimi] From time to time we hear about differences and disputes among the mujahidin factions over the political future of Afghanistan. Do such disputes still exist?

[Sayyaf] The seven leaders agreed on the appointment of one minister to each ministry. They also agreed on future government planning. Does this not reflect unity among the mujahidin? Despite the reports made by Western news agencies, we all, praise be to God, are in one trench, seeking to achieve one objective, namely, to expel the Russian enemy from our country and establish God's rule on this land. That is the major objective over which all the mujahidin are united. [passage omitted]

[Al-Ghanimi] Some claim that the Soviet withdrawal will be followed by a civil war in which the parties would be fighting for power. How do you see Afghanistan after the withdrawal?

[Sayyaf] That will never happen, because we have given more than 3 million people, including martyrs and wounded, to liberate our country. This is in addition to millions of refugees. Our objective has been and shall always be to support God's religion, an aim that Russia has tried and is still trying to eliminate among the sons of this people. I do not believe that the objective of these great sacrifices is to seize power. Such talk is being circulated to divide the mujahidin and stir up sedition among them. However, we understand this fact well and we shall thwart the schemes of the enemies of Islam.

[Al-Ghanimi] The mujahidin still have not announced where their provisional government will be based in Afghanistan. Why not, especially as some claim that the mujahidin have not yet been able to recapture a major city that can be used as a base for their government?

[Sayyaf] We do not want to change the name of the capital. We want Kabul to be the capital of the next Muslim Afghan government. [passage omitted]

Najibullah Addresses Islamic Delegates

LD2710211988 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 0630 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Kabul, 27 Oct (BAKHTAR)—Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, last night received delegations taking part in an international Islamic conference in Kabul. The president received them at Gol Khanah Palace.

At the beginning of this meeting, Esteemed Najibullah spoke about the results of the international Islamic conference, current events in Afghanistan, and Afghanistan's position on the settlement of conflicts around this country.

He said: From the bottom of my heart, I would like to express my gratitude to you, dear guests, for your active participation in this glorious international Islamic conference where you have expressed support for our views and proposals.

How do we assess international and regional situations and events in our country? [passage omitted] One hotbed of tension is Afghanistan. In perceiving our humane, historic, and national responsibility and mission, we intend to open our narrow stream of regional problems to the enormous ocean of human prosperity.

We learned this lesson from the two world wars, various regional wars, and finally from the 10-year-old war which has been waged in our persecuted country. This led us to proclaim the national reconciliation policy, the policy of national compromise and accord and national unity. The objective of this policy is to restore peace and calm in the country. We must have understanding and channel all our efforts into agreements, talks, and dialogue. We announce clearly that Afghanistan is the common homeland of all Afghans, irrespective of their religious, national, class, or racial background. We are all in this together.

Patriotism and a feeling of responsibility regarding this international process must heal the wounds of war in Afghanistan and build a common home for Afghans as a single, independent, free, nonaligned, neutral, and stable home in this region so that our people can live in unity and in peace and comfort. Therefore, the national reconciliation policy, with all its complex aspects, contains

concessions, understanding, and compromises in the military, political, economic, and social areas, as well as in the foreign and international areas.

Well, many have rejected this policy and many have looked at this policy with suspicion and doubt. Some think this was a tactical step. We can say clearly that declaring this policy was a strategic step both from a national and international viewpoint, as well as serving the cause of world peace. The concentration of all Afghan forces in one politically sovereign entity and marching together with them in the direction of development and progress is not a tactical step but a strategic one. [passage omitted]

Those who do not care about the people have no right to reject such policies. However, despite such carelessness I am sure that eventually a number of them—groups, forces, reasonable and realistic individuals among our opposition, inside and outside the country—will finally come to realize that the war cannot untie a single knot. However, the path of reconciliation, compromise, and talks can help us reach our objective. To this end, we have made these concessions: relinquishing monopoly on power and evacuating several areas for the opposition groups and refugees to resettle. A total of 24 retreats have been made in order for this formidable policy to succeed. This is not due to our weakness but comes from our strength, from our sound perception and responsibility regarding history, people, society, and humanity.

If Afghanistan succeeds in resolving its problem in this way, it will be a good example for other hotbeds of tension in the world. This is a most formidable policy. For this purpose we quickly opened the long, twisted, and difficult Geneva road—during the last 6 years—and we signed the Geneva accords.

So far Afghanistan and Soviet Union have earnestly fulfilled their commitments concerning the implementation of these accords. The Pakistan side the United States had carried out their commitments in accordance with the Geneva accords in the sense that the refugees were allowed to return with no obstacles. If their [mujahidin] offices and training centers in Pakistan had been closed down, and if Pakistan had not been used as the transit point for convoys and gangs, I could say to you explicitly today that a peaceful situation would have existed in our country. [passage indistinct]

If the situation is tense regarding the military and security situation, this is not because of any weakness in the Geneva accords, but because of the violation of the accords. Therefore, the responsibility for this rests with those who violate the Geneva accords. Responsibility rests with Pakistan and its supporters, as well as those guarantors who put their signatures on the bottom of these lawful and legal documents. At this point they do not attach any credibility to these legal documents, or any value to their signatures or to credible international organizations.

I believe that all those indications that after the commencement of the withdrawal of the Soviet troops, the Afghan regime would fall are now just a mirage. Now the view is slowly gaining credence that this regime will not fall all that easily. We fully believe that eventually they will reach this conclusion, that issues can be solved through compromise and talks, and they will see the futility of war.

As far as the Islamic character is concerned, Afghanistan was, is, and will be an Islamic country. This is embodied in the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan. In all government activities during the 10 post-revolutionary years—which are 5 times more qualitative than all the activities during the past 50 years—the relationship between the revolution and Islam, has been an issue. I think that the revolution took place to order to secure tranquillity, prosperity, and progress for our people and society.

No revolution can succeed without relying on the people, our Muslim and faithful people. The people of Afghanistan are Muslims and faithful, and the revolution undoubtedly should rely on them. Otherwise, a revolution without the support of the people and Islamic characteristics is not a revolution. However, I do not want to go into detail regarding this.

In the speech you heard, everything was discussed. In honor of the sacredness of the Prophet Muhammad's birthday, 21 October, we convened an international Islamic gathering here. This is, I think, a mark of great honor and respect toward the sacred religion of Islam.

Let us see what has been done by those who have declared a holy war and call themselves holy warriers [mujahidin] on this sacred day. All over Afghanistan, they launched some 460 rockets at Kabul, Kapisa, Konduz, Nangarhar, Qandahar, and Zabol Provinces and Gardez city. Twelve women and children were killed, 44 citizens martyred, 2 cars destroyed, 1 bus and 2 houses destroyed in Qandahar, and 2 explosions occurred. On this sacred day, I leave the judgment to you. However, at this international gathering, we anounced that we are ready to sit down in holy Mecca, discuss our disputes, and arrive at an agreement. This is once again the yardstick for testing the goodwill of those who may display their loyalty toward the sacred principles of Islam and respect to the holy place of Bayt al-Haram [reference to Mecca].

I believe I should once again declare at this meeting with our dear guests that the Afghan side is always ready to hold such a meeting at any place and at any level, particularly if the opposition displays its willingness, along with Saudi Arabia. And we believe that the time has come for the Islamic Conference Organization to utilize its good offices toward maintaining peace and tranquillity and solving Afghan problems through political methods and negotiations. I believe now, after your few days in Afghanistan, you have seen the true and

realistic face of the events in Afghanistan, and we hope that you will explain this image of Afghanistan to the peoples of your countries who are our Muslim brothers. We are grateful for your participation and active effort in coming here and enriching this conference.

In conclusion, Esteemed Najibullah said: Concerning the prevention of the violation of the Geneva accords, I should tell you now that the guidelines of the United Nations, whose mission is present in Afghanistan, are not yet workaing effectively. Regarding the conditions and matters put forward by the Government of the Saudi Arabia to us, I believe that the problem should be solved by Afghans themselves, because it is enshrined in the UN Charter, all international documents, and in the origins of the ICO that self-determination is the right of the people themselves—of course, with the efforts of the good offices of the Saudi authorities. Any other way and any other condition will subsequently face defeat, because they will not be long-lasting nor a living condition and will be imposed mechanically on the people.

We believe the Afghans themselves, independently and freely, should create a nonaligned, neutral, independent, and stable Afghanistan. It is the Afghans who, with regard to their present conditions, can solve their own problems, and we welcome the good offices of every government and every brother in this regard. If His Excellency Husni Mubarrak and the Egyptian state or Uganda are doing this work, or for that matter any other brother country, we welcome such goodwill efforts. We are grateful once again for your assurance that you will not only tell the truth but will serve as our ambassadors. I believe, in this regard, you are following God's guidance in telling the truth.

I hope this will not be your only visit to our country. I hope you return in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity when our children play under the blue sky and tears are replaced by smiles.

With the help of God, peace and tranquillity is coming to our country. However, our future generations will be the ones to turn the pages to see who, in hard times, shared their sorrows and offered their sympathy, and who were their friends and defended their cause.

Thank you for your attention.

Foreign Ministry Denies Executing Foreigners

LD2710175688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Excerpt] A Foreign Ministry spokesman held a briefing in the Foreign Ministry press center today. The spokesman rejected Pakistan's accusations that at least seven foreigners imprisoned in Pol-e Charki Prison—two Pakistanis, two Iranians, and a Bangaladeshi [numbers as heard]—have been executed.

The spokeman also commented on the arrest of 12 Afghan immigrants on charges of planting a bomb in an Islamabad market. Pakistan is creating obstacles and [word indistinct] under various pretexts and methods for Afghan emigrants who want to return to their fatherland on the basis of the national reconciliation policy and the signing of the Geneva accords.

Accusing Afghan emigrants of planting bombs creates fear among them and prevents their return to their country. Moreover, Pakistan diverts Pakistani public opinion away from the disagreements and lack of political stability in that country in order to blame foreign influences for such disorders. [passage omitted]

108th Note on Violations Submitted to UN Mission

LD2710224888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's coordination office with UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] reports that this evening Memorandum No 108 of the Republic of Afghanistan on nine cases of flagrant violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva accords was handed in to UNGOMAP in Kabul.

In the memorandum, accurate information was given about the Pakistani violations. The UN mission was asked to assess the violations by Pakistan and present the results to the Afghan side and the UN secretary general's envoy as soon as possible.

UN Mission Members See 'Destroyed' Regions

LD2810001688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Representatives of the UN Good Offices Mission in Kabul this morning visited those regions destroyed by explosions by the extremists elements and talked with the local people. A BIA correspondent reports that based on a decision by the Foreign Ministry and its coordination office with the UN Good Office Mission in Kabul, from now on members of the Good Offices Mission will visit such regions in order to accurately assess the destruction and repeated violations by Pakistan of the Geneva accords. They will then present a report to the United Nations.

118 'Extremists' Crushed in 3 Provinces

LD2710190588 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Yesterday, the country's Armed Forces during mopping-up operations in the vicinity of Paktia, Konduz, and Nangarhar Provinces crushed 118 armed extremists backed by the United States and Pakistan, injuring 35 of them.

The BIA military section reports that as a result of the mopping-up operation in the vicinity of Konduz Province, 70 warmongering extremists were killed. A Stinger system [as heard], a communication system, and a number of other arms and ammunition were destroyed.

In the vicinity of Paktia Province, 46 extremists were killed and 21 others of these criminals were injured. Three guns, 4 rocket launchers, 1 rocket system, 55 light weapons, and [word indistinct] of arms and ammunition of the extremists were destroyed.

Also, as a result of mopping-up operations by the Armed Forces in the sub-district of Chaprahar, Nangarhar Province, two extremists were killed and four others were injured.

'Extremists' Fire 400 Missiles on Gardeyz
LD2710214888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Yesterday and today, armed extremists martyred two of our compatriots and injured another five, including two children, by firing 400 surface-to-surface missiles at the residential areas of Gardeyz city.

The BIA military section reports that as a result of this inhumane action by the criminal extremists, 57 of our compatriots' houses were partially damaged in the villages of Sayedan, Mali Kheyl, Shakar Khel, Ahangaran, Atafaq Mena, and Sharanah.

Islamabad Notes Mujahidin Operations
BK2710155588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 27 Oct 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the situation in Kabul and its surrounding areas is deteriorating because of intensified mujahidin missile attacks. The mujahidin are reported to have attacked the capital and its surrounding areas with missiles, killing several Kabul regime soldiers and causing material losses. Similar attacks have also been carried out on military positions around Jalalabad, causing considerable losses in men and materiel to the Kabul regime.

According to the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY, during an operation by the mujahidin in Qandahar, at least 11 Kabul regime military personnel were killed and many others wounded. One tank and two military vehicles were also destroyed.

A report from Nangarhar Province says that two bombs exploded in the Ghani Kheyl area on 24 October, killing five and injuring many other Kabul regime soldiers and destroying a military vehicle loaded with arms and ammunition.

The Afghan mujahidin also shot down a Kabul regime helicopter in the outskirts of the central town of (Poloda) in Kabul Province, killing all members of the crew.

Another report from Parvan Province says that 10 officers of the Kabul regime troops surrendered to the mujahidin along with their weapons and two vehicles.

Bangladesh

Iran's Mansuri Meets President Ershad 27 Oct
BK2710132588 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 230 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] The Iranian deputy foreign minister, Mr Javad Mansuri, now in Bangladesh on an official visit, called on President Ershad in Dhaka today. During the meeting, the Iranian deputy foreign minister conveyed warm greetings and best wishes of Iranian President Ali Khamene' to President Ershad.

He also conveyed his country's sympathy and support for the sufferings caused to the people of Bangladesh in the recent devastating floods. He apprised President Ershad of the latest situation in the Gulf, particularly the current peace negotiations between Iran and Iraq.

Mr Mansuri conveyed an invitation from the Iranian president to President Ershad to visit Iran.

President Ershad said Bangladesh had all along been making consistent efforts to bring about a respectful and mutually acceptable peace accord between Iran and Iraq. He expressed the hope that the current negotiations would result in a durable peace in the region.

India

Gandhi on Armed Forces, Visit to PRC
BK2710162288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] The prime minister has asked the Armed Forces to carry on the modernization program, because, with this, they can become more effective and equipped to face any challenge. Addressing a joint conference of commanders of Army, Navy, and the Air Force in New Delhi today, Mr Rajiv Gandhi asked them to exercise economy and assured them that all the genuine needs will be provided.

The prime minister commended the role of the Peacekeeping Force for its discipline, dedication, and sacrifice in performing a difficult task in Sri Lanka. He said the families of those who were killed in the operations will be looked after and those disabled will be rehabilitated. Mr Gandhi said India will adhere to the India-Sri Lanka agreement.

His forthcoming visit to China, the prime minister said, will help strengthen relations between the two countries besides paving the way for finding a solution to the existing bilateral problems.

HINDUSTAN TIMES on Gandhi PRC Visit

BK2510073188 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 17 Oct 88 p 13

[Mira Sinha Bhattacharjea article]

[Text] Nearly a week after the return of the delegation led by the Foreign Secretary to Beijing to discuss the nuts and bolts of the Prime Minister's [PM] proposed visit to China, no firm dates have been announced. It may be that the debriefing continues; it may be that the PM is preoccupied with more urgent domestic matters.... Even so, it is apparent that this visit is still shrouded by that same caution, perhaps uncertainty, that had prevented the PM from making a firm commitment to visit China this year.

The principal reason for this caution is not difficult to identify: It lies in the distinct hardening of the Chinese stand on the eastern border over the past two years.

This change has given rise to one of those asymmetries that have periodically bedevilled the India-China relationship. Since 1986 both governments have gradually reversed long held positions on the basic question of what should be given priority: Speedy normalisation or some prior understanding on the territorial issue. As China's position hardened, it began to give priority to the border problem rather than to the normalisation it had long urged.

By contrast with its earlier position, India began to clear the decks for a qualitative improvement in the bilateral relationship. It abandoned, for instance, the victor-/victim syndrome to adopt a more constructive approach which was prepared to grant that the sensitivities of the Chinese people and the interests of the Chinese State must also be taken into account. Rajiv Gandhi even declared that this country does not perceive a security threat from China.

This was confirmed as policy, not just one man's opinion, in the annual reports of the Ministries of Defence and External Affairs this year for the first time in many years. And, he also decided that the time had come to visit China "in principle" some time this year.

As it happened, however, these gestures were negated-from the Chinese point of view—by what it thought India was doing which seemed to contradict the spirit of what India was saying. As was discussed in these columns last week, China reacted strongly to Indian politico-military initiatives in the eastern sector (the Sumdorong Chu/Wangdong affair and the grant of Statehood to Arunachal Pradesh).

It began to treat the eastern sector as "disputed", adopted attitudes more befitting an "adversary" than a "friend", withdrew the "Deng package" and moved the border issue back to centre stage for the first time since 1962. Once again the two sides had adopted priorities that did not match or meet.

This asymmetry continues to haunt the proposed visit and has already robbed it of some of the ambience it could have had. After the return of the foreign secretary's delegation, nothing has been made public to suggest that the Chinese stand has been softened or moderated. The Chinese hosts continue to treat the visit with a high degree of reserve, attaching "great importance" to it rather than extending an eager "welcome". Presumably more exchanges will have to take place in Beijing and in New Delhi to hammer out a programme and agreements that can be acceptable to both sides.

All in all it has to be admitted that the timing of the visit is not as promising as it could have been. It should have taken place in a tension-free atmosphere, after, and not just before, a general election with time in hand to make and implement decisions. And it should, for maximum effect, have taken place before, not after, a Gorbachev visit and before, not after, a Sino-Soviet understanding was reached on their border problem. By all reckoning, the best time would have been in 1985. Not only was that opportunity not taken, it was, at that time, not even acknowledged as such.

This asymmetry has not, however, prevented the two sides from concluding bilateral agreements in a wide variety of economic, technical, cultural and other fields, while some more are on the anvil. But these agreements do not carry the same political significance as they did in the 1950's, when any contact with China represented a brave attempt to defy American pressures. Today such agreements are but the common currency of inter-State relations, lacking larger significance.

In the post-Vladivostok atmosphere of international relations, China and the Soviet Union can discuss plans for the joint development of the Amur-Ussuri river basins, open up border trade in a big way, exchange views on pressing global problems and so on, even before a border setlement has been arrived at and even before "normalistation" is announced in the shape of a Gorbachev-Deng summit meeting. In this atmosphere, to resist establishing bilateral exchanges or to resist opening up to hitherto adversary states is almost tantamount to a declaration of continuing hostile intent. So the sum total of our agreements with China to date does not qualitatively alter the nature of the relationship.

During this visit agreements may be reached on trans-border trade, on the opening of consulates and on establishing governmental machinery for ongoing consultations such as the two countries have with other States but not with each other. Such agreements will be welcome for they have been long overdue but will still belong to what is now the ordinary routine of State relations and will not usher in normalisation or friendship.

For that something more is required: a change of attitude or approach which would enable the two countries to put the past decisively behind them, and to resolve the

seemingly intractable boundary problem in a new context and in ways that are in harmony with the needs of the time for disengagement and dialogue.

Ideally speaking, this should have been both the objective and the message of a prime ministerial visit to China. Such a visit would have established or confirmed new and constructive relations free of both the sentimentality and suspicions of the past, in recognition of an Asian commonality, of their greater responsibility given the sheer size of land, population and potential and of neighbourly interdependence. Unfortunately, neither leadership has shown any evidence of the statesmanship required to do this, or even to take bold decisions to redesign foreign policy in keeping with the higher demands of the present—at least not in their bilateral matters.

If the recent tensions on the eastern border signify anything it is that both are still trapped by the long shadows of the past. This unrelieved tension, the new Chinese hardline and the unfortunate pre-election timing of the Prime Minister's visit impose severe limitations on what can at present be achieved, or attempted.

We have not been given any hints as to what is under consideration or what prior preparations are being made. However, more will be expected of this visit than just a display of atmospherics complete with a chorus of praise for a past friendship and obeisance at the hallowed sites of cultural borrowing. The concrete objective must be to end what the Prime Minister himself described as the eyeball to eyeball situation along the eastern border, and to set the two countries on the path to a peaceful settlement of the boundary problem.

This is, of course, easier said than done because of Beijing's obstinate insistence that New Delhi should unilaterally restore the position it upset in the east, and because Rajiv will be unable to take bold initiatives as long as he has an eye on the coming elections. However it should be possible to convince Beijing that India has no aggressive designs on Chinese territory, that it is prepared to negotiate around a mutually agreed line of control that existed say in 1981 when the present round of talks began. At the same time it would make good sense to let the Chinese know where our core and non-negotiable demands lie and to share with them the special problems the Congress-I faces at this time in agreeing to the principle of give and take.

A serious and well prepared Indian initiative along these lines may well elicit a positive Chinese response for all indications are that China does want to settle the border problem and that it is not anxious to enlarge present differences and tensions. This would then clear the ground for proposing and perhaps even concluding a formal agreement on maintaining peace and tranquillity along the entire border, not just in the eastern sector.

This agreement must be concrete. That is, it must detail provisions for ensuring that neither side is able to change the positions it holds on the ground, for identifying disputed areas and for ensuring that these will be kept free of any military presence. It must also provide mechanisms for dealing with unintended transgressions that are likely to occur given the nature of the terrain, at the border itself. This mechanism would also enable the two sides to keep each other informed about routine patrolling, seasonal withdrawals or returns, replacements, air drops etc.

If such an agreement can be concluded it would end the present unwanted tension, provide an earnest intention and above all it would commit the two sides to real negotiations and non-military solutions. It could in fact be regarded as a no-war pact, the fall out of which would have far reaching impact on the bilateral relationship as well as on our common neighbours, and would be widely welcomed both at home and abroad.

There is still time before the visit takes place for these ideas to be further examined and even discussed with Beijing. There is also time for the government to prepare the Indian public and to take opposition leaders into confidence on what should be not a Congress-I policy but a national policy on the border question at this critical juncture of time. The only other real alternative is to embark on the irreversible path to long-term confrontation.

Farmers Vow To Continue 'Indefinite Sit-in'

BK2810081588 Hong Kong AFP in English 0805 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 28 (AFP)—Hundreds of Indian farmers Friday vowed to continue an indefinite sit-in in central New Delhi to press for higher farm produce prices and the cancellation of debts, protest organisers said.

An estimated 15,000 farmers from India's northern states camped out for the fourth straight day on the boat club lawns overlooking the presidential palace of Rashtrapati Bhavan.

They were demanding higher prices for farm produce, lower electricity tariffs, the cancellation of debts incurred during successive droughts and floods and other concessions from the government.

The squatters have set up temporary shelters and makeshift kitchens on the lawns where Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is scheduled to address a major rally on Monday, the fourth anniversary of the assassination of his mother and predecessor Indira Gandhi.

"There is nothing that can move us out of here ... We will go only after the government gives us a better deal," a leader of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) (Indian Farmers' Union), Choupal Singh said.

The farmers' decision to continue the sit-in came one day after Mr. Gandhi said in southern Tamil Nadu State that his administration would not grant any concessions "under pressure."

Scores of riot police backed up by tear-gas squads moved on to the boat club lawns at dawn Friday and took away the body of a farmer who had died of a heart attack Thursday.

The BKU had refused to hand over the body to the authorities, placing it ceremonially on a sidewalk as what they described as "evidence of the Indian Government's indifference to the farmers."

"We are here and will clear them (the squatters) off the grounds if the government orders us to do so," Police Commissioner Ajay Aggarwal told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

An estimated 3,000 policemen have been deployed around the lawns, officials said.

Federal intelligence officers said the administration was worried that the indefinite sit-in could jeopardise Monday's proposed rally being organised by Mr. Gandhi's ruling Congress (I) party.

Mr. Gandhi's cabinet colleagues, including Home Minister Buta Singh and Agriculture Minister Bhajan Lal, have argued that the demands of the protesters are a state issue and do not come under the jurisdiction of the federal government.

Mr. Buta Singh has promised protest leaders that New Delhi will urge the administration of Uttar Pradesh State to look into the farmers' demands.

Mahendra Singh Tikait, the main protest leader, has said that the squatters, most of them from the northern states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, will not disperse until their demands are met.

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD2810104988 Tehran IRNA in English 1032 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct 28, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i today reiterated that if Iraq wants to show its good-will in the peace talks, as a first step, it must withdraw its forces to the internationally-recognized borders. Cease-fire without troop withdrawals does not comply with peace, he maintained.

"The Muslim people of Iran are serious both in war and peace and have proved this during the eight years of the war (with Iraq) and in recent months," he stressed.

Addressing a huge crowd of Muslim worshippers at Tehran University campus and its nearby streets, the president who leads Tehran's Friday prayers, also accused Iraq of favoring war "in line with its aggressive policies." He said Iraq has no interest in peace and tranquility but "only wants war."

President Khamene'i regretted that Iran-Iraq peace talks, to resume in Geneva next Monday, have not desirably progressed due to "Baghdad's obstructionist policies." Instead, he said the Islamic Republic's position regarding the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598 is "clearcut, explicit and decisive."

The prayer leader stressed that the Iranian people welcome peace but this, he noted, did not mean they were not ready to fight. "They have shown in the course of the war that they are brave and resistant and would not fear the perils of war."

He said Iraqi peace slogans were false and from a position of weakness and only aimed at reducing pressures on the ruling regime.

President 'Ali Khamene'i, in his Friday prayer sermons today, also spoke about the Lebanese crisis and said there were efforts to resolve the issue of Lebanon and the occupied Palestine together and with the help of each other.

He said this policy is aimed making the Maronites the sovereign power in the country in line with the strategy of arrogance because, he said, this would serve the interests of the Zionists as well.

Further elaborating on the issue, the president said the sovereignty of the Maronites on Beirut and then on the whole of Lebanon would be very effective in providing security for the usurper regime of Israel. Therefore, he added, the Zionists would like the Maronites to come to power and these two would serve each other's interests.

The president then regretted that the Islamic world, particularly certain reactionary states were giving ground to the strengthening of this policy and did not stand firmly against these activities.

Warning of a "plot to dominate Islam" and check Islamic movements in the region, the president called for full unity and solidarity among Lebanese Muslims and Islamic and anti-Maronite groups to counter the conspiracy.

"The Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims in Lebanon must know that the danger (in Lebanon) is not only against one single group but against the whole Muslims of the country," the president stressed.

Only Syria is standing against these plots and the country is alone in this regard, Khamene'i said, adding that the Lebanese crisis, as an issue of the Islamic world, is significant for the Islamic republics.

Velayati Meets Lebanon's Fadlallah, Tawhid Leader
LD2710183388 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Al-'Allamah Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati met this evening and discussed the important issues facing the Islamic world, particularly the current problems in Lebanon. They also discussed plots by arrogance and reaction against Muslims, as well as the need for unity and harmony among Lebanese Muslims in facing the plots and machinations by foreigners aimed at weakening and disintegrating Lebanon.

Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Lebanese Islamic Tawhid Movement, also met with Velayati today and discussed the struggles facing Lebanese and Palestinian Muslims.

Velayati Departs for Syria for Talks on Lebanon
LD2810064188 Tehran IRNA in English 0635 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 28, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left here for Damascus this morning and said he was carrying a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i for his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad. The foreign minister is leading a political delegation to Syria for a one day visit.

He also said in an interview before departure that he will hold talks with Syrian officials on mutual ties and the latest developments in the region.

Tehran-Damascus talks have always focussed on the issues of Lebanon, he said, adding that this time too the recent events in the war-torn country and the plots being hatched to divide Lebanon will be raised in meetings with Syrian authorities.

Velayati said numerous factors are contributing to further disturb the situation in Lebanon and among them he cited the escalation of Israeli attacks against the country.

The foreign minister is expected to leave Damascus for Geneva where he is to attend the fourth round of Iran-Iraq peace talks to start under the supervision of the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Monday.

White House Blocking Sanctions Against Iraq
LD2310195788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1056 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, the U.S. Congress refused to impose an economic embargo against Iraq for that country's use of chemical weapons as a repressive measure against the Iraqi Kurdish opposition. [passage omitted]

Precisely 1 month ago, when repeated use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime against the Kurdish people of that country was intensified and anxiety was growing over the lack of attention to the international prohibition against using these weapons, the U.S. State Department declared that Iraq had refrained from using chemical weapons in domestic and international conflicts. Furthermore, the State Department spokesman described as positive the comments of the Iraqi foreign minister on this matter, pointing out that Iraq had agreed with and would respect all internationally approved laws, including the 1925 Geneva Protocol, prohibiting the use of chemical weapons.

This theatrical adoption of a policy—which apparently led to differences of views within the U.S. ruling circles and the subsequent collapse of the proposal for punitive economic measures against Iraq as approved by the U.S. Congress—proved that politicians in the White House on the eve of next month's presidential election, which is especially important for the Republicans, still prefer their own strategic objectives in the Middle East and Iraq to the recommendations of the U.S. Congress. This suspicion becomes stronger when one considers that the United States has already termed fruitless a conference to be held in Paris next January against the use of chemical weapons. The United States has also introduced some limitations on the conference by setting a precondition that in the course of the conference nobody will be condemned. The news sources note that the purpose of the U.S. comment about not condemning any specific party is to avoid condemning Iraq, which has already been charged with using poison gasses against Iranian forces as well as its own people. The objective followed by the United States in this respect is that of playing an important role in reconstructing postwar Iraq. [passage omitted]

In this manner the White House, which was against the imposition of economic sanctions against the Iraqi regime right from the beginning, has now neutralized the bill despite the approval of the U.S. Congress.

New Envoy to Oman Presents Credentials
LD2710102688 Tehran IRNA in English 0951 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 27, IRNA—Iran's first ambassador to Oman after the Islamic Revolution, Mohammad 'Arab, presented his credentials to Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id Wednesday.

During the meeting Sultan Qabus spoke of the important role of the Islamic Republic in the Persian Gulf region and called for expansion of Tehran-Muscat ties.

'Arab, referring to the holding of Islamic Unity Week (24-29 Oct) initiated to promote Sunni-Shi'a understanding, said it was necessary for the two nations to strengthen cultural, historic and religious ties.

Diplomatic ties between Iran and Oman was reduced to charge d'affaires level after the overthrow of the monarchy in 1979. Iraq's invasion of the Islamic Republic in 1980 and the support of regional Arab countries dimmed the possibility of improvement in relations.

After several diplomatic shuttles last year, the two countries agreed to raise their ties to ambassador level.

Nicaraguan Finance Minister Meets With Leaders

LD2710223888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] This morning, President Khamene'i met William Huper, the Nicaraguan finance minister and special envoy of that country's president.

In the meeting, the Nicaraguan finance minister submitted a written message, as well as warm and friendly greetings, from Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, to President Khamene'i. He said: Our president has asked me to express Nicaragua's full support for Security Council Resolution No 598 and for the full implementation of its articles. He also expressed his praise and admiration for the brave struggles of the Iranian people against oppression and aggression, particularly in confronting U.S. imperialism.

President Khamene'i expressed his gratitude for the kind message of the Nicaraguan president and conveyed his sympathy over the recent hurricane which inflicted much damage on that country. He said: We express our sadness in the face of difficulties confronting a friendly country and a revolutionary nation and government and we also voice our respect for a nation which endures such difficulties and does not rest for a moment from its struggles. The president said: Our nation also is faced, in wider dimensions, with those same enmities and evil conspiracies of the United States and its lackeys.

We continue, however, to stand firm against those conspiracies. The president added: If your people can fully overcome their difficulties and defeat the U.S. regime's evil intentions toward them, it will provide a very good and effective lesson for all the region's oppressed nations.

The Nicaraguan finance minister and special envoy also met with Mir Hoseyn Musavi this morning. In the meeting, which was also attended by Iravani, the minister of economy and finance, the Nicaraguan finance minister presented a report to the prime minister about the latest developments in the Nicaraguan people's struggles against colonialism and the damage sustained in the severe hurricane.

He said: The United States exerted a great deal of pressure on Nicaragua and continues to equip the counterrevolutionaries inside and outside the country. For that reason, we protested against the United States at The Hague tribunal and are demanding compensation for the damage inflicted on our country.

Prime Minister Musavi then expressed sympathy about the damage inflicted by the severe hurricane and termed the resistance of that country's people against U.S. conspiracies as heroic. He said: Nicaragua and Iran are both confronted by U.S. enmity and they have both recognized the struggle and accepted resistance. Describing the current state of Iran's system, the prime minister said: After 8 difficult years of war, NATO and U.S. fleets still remain close to the Strait of Hormuz and conspiracy still exists in our country.

Consequently, the experience of 8 years of struggle dictates that we should always be vigilant. The prime minister said: Although all our resources are being mobilized for the country's reconstruction, we have not neglected defensive preparedness. In conclusion, Mr Musavi stressed: We understand the threats against your revolution and the conspiracy of multinational companies against the resistant people of Nicaragua. We consider your victory as our own victory in a strategic region of the world.

This afternoon, the Nicaraguan finance minister also met with Foreign Minister Velayati and discussed the conspiracies of the United States against the Nicaraguan revolution and that country's domestic issues. In the meeting, he conveyed a message of friendship from Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto to Velayati and described U.S. conspiracies against and obstructions in the establishment of peace in Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan finance minister also spoke about the recent hurricane in Central America and the damage and losses sustained by Nicaragua. Velayati, too, expressed sympathy about the hurricane in Central America. He also spoke about the Iran-Iraq peace talks, the implementation of the articles of Resolution No 598, and Iraq's excuses. He described Iraqi behavior as arising from the difficulties which the Iraqi regime faces inside its own country for justifying the commencement of the war.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD2810095088 Tehran IRNA in English 0712 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 28, IRNA—The Nicaraguan Finance Minister William Huper, left Tehran this morning at the end of a two-day visit. He said before departure that Iran has promised to help Nicaragua with foodstuffs and medicine following the recent hurricane that devastated part of the country.

Meanwhile, Iran's Ministry of Construction Jihad, on behalf of relevant organisations, is to study ways of expanding economic ties and granting some technical assistance to Nicaragua.

Huper arrived here Tuesday carrying a message of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega for his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i. He also met with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi and Foreign Minister 'Ali Velayati during his visit.

Khamene'i Welcomes Returning Specialists

LD2710223788 Tehran IRNA in English 1511 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Mazandaran Prov, Oct. 27, IRNA—The people and government warmly welcome Iranian scientists and specialists abroad who wish to return to Iran and serve their homeland, said President 'Ali Khamene'i.

In his message read at the inaugural ceremony of the first international physics-mathematics seminar here Wednesday, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i who is also head of the Cultural Revolution Council cautioned against blind imitation without taking into account basic researches, which he said would end up like the aping of Western corruptions and ultimately cause dependency.

Over 850 Iranian and foreign researchers are attending the seminar, the first ever of its kind in Iran.

LE FIGARO Interviews Sheykh ol-Eslam

PM2710103888 Paris LE FIGARO in French 25 Oct 88 p 4

[Report on an interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam by Claude Lorieux in Paris on 24 October]

[Text] "Our relations with France have by no means reached the level that is both desirable and possible," LE FIGARO was told yesterday by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam.

While hailing the progress achieved since the exchange of ambassadors on 1 July, Velayati's assistant in charge of Middle Eastern and African affairs expressed the desire for expansion of the two countries' relations in all fields. This includes the economic field, of course, and Paris points out in this regard that two trade missions are due to leave Paris for Tehran soon. There is also the political field, however. "There is still much to be done before we properly understand each other's positions in this field." "We have much rebuilding to do," the Iranian deputy minister stressed. He recalled the sympathy enjoyed by our country in Iran when Khomeyni returned from exile and paid tribute to France's diplomatic activity, "which is different from that of most European countries."

The minister, who was on a stopover in Paris on his way back from Tripoli, also discussed the following points:

1. Iraq-Iran Peace Negotiations

"They are only excuses," he said with regard to the preconditions (the draining [as published] of the Shatt al-'Arab and freedom of navigation in the Gulf) set by Baghdad for the withdrawal of its troops behind national boundaries. Sheykh ol-Eslam welcomed the fact that "fortunately the cease-fire is more or less holding up." Nevertheless he warned that "unless the two sides' forces withdraw behind national boundaries it is impossible to establish a neutral strip of several kilometers between them. Unless the forces are separated there is a risk of accidents." "If the negotiations drag on, everyone will lose confidence," he added, urging Security Council members to exert pressure on Iraq.

Tehran, the deputy minister said, is willing, "in order to facilitate the peace process," to refrain from asserting its internationally recognized right to examine cargoes of neutral countries in the Gulf. Baghdad, on the other hand, "demands things that are not part of international law." Iraq, he said "is not satisfied with saying that it has not won the war. It wants to be able to say: I have won the war."

2. Relations Between Iran and the Gulf Shaykhdoms

The minister hailed "the wise gesture" of King Fahd, who has recently asked the Saudi press to stop reviling Iran. He still believes that by putting a bloodthirsty end to the Mecca demonstrations of July 1985 the Saudis "violated one of Islam's most sacred laws." "I do not believe that in the future they will tell us how to conduct our pilgrimage," he added, stressing that this is a "very delicate issue."

3. Islamic Jihad Threats to American Hostages

"I do not accept threats to hostages. They will not prevent the Israelis from bombarding Lebanon.... As for Iran, it is trying to avoid being dragged into the American electoral game" (through hostage bargaining.)

Next the deputy minister referred to the negotiations on the TWA Boeing in July 1985 that permitted the exchange of hostages and release of Israel's Lebanese prisoners. "We are opposed to hijacking but when it is possible to do some good to both sides, to secure people's release, we are willing to act. It sometimes succeeds."

Ayatollah Khatami Dies in Tehran Hospital

LD2710215288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Ayatollah Khatami, the imam's representative and the Friday imam of Yazd, who was hospitalized at one of Tehran's hospitals a few days ago, bade farewell to the material world on Thursday afternoon. After being transferred to Yazd, the pure mortal remains of Ayatollah Khatami will be buried in that city on Friday.

Aqazadeh, Rahgozar Discuss Oil Policies

NC2710193488 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1705 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Weekly political roundtable discussion with Petroleum Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh and Deputy Petroleum Minister for Petrochemical Affairs Ahmad Rahgozar moderated by Afshar, correspondent of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in Tehran; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Afshar] [Passage omitted] I welcome you brothers for participating in this program. Mr Aqazadeh, the OPEC meeting in Madrid ended last week and the news agencies reported that this session was a failure. However, the OPEC oil ministers who attended this meeting said otherwise because they expressed their satisfaction over the outcome of the meeting. Can you please comment on the reason for these conflicting views? Also, in view of the fact that after this meeting the price of oil dropped unprecedentedly, why did the OPEC oil ministers express their satisfaction?

[Aqazadeh] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. First, I would like to say that the committee that was formed was not a decisionmaking committee but one to pave the way for talks as a prologue to the OPEC meeting which is to be held in about 20 days.

This meeting was a noteworthy meeting as far as the OPEC oil ministers are concerned, because it met immediately after the cease-fire in the region and it was the first time for years that a meeting was being held in a frank atmosphere of understanding during which serious talks were carried out. This was the first time that talks were held on the main issues and the fundamental problems faced by OPEC during the past few years. Among the topics discussed were our policies on pricing, production, members' quotas, and other issues.

But more important than all these, a comprehensive discussion was held on the credibility of the organization. You know that we have had many meetings, but after each meeting, each minister would disregard the decisions that had been made in view of the conditions prevailing in the region and in view of the atmosphere ruling OPEC. Generally speaking, the world ignored OPEC and OPEC had practically turned into an organization with nothing much to say to the world. The first topic we brought up during the committee meeting, and an item on which a conclusion was reached, was that we must clarify the organization's future.

If we do not want OPEC, then we should dissolve it now. Why are we using such an approach toward an organization of Third World countries which is almost among the most important international organizations of the world? Let us dissolve it and say that there was no understanding. But if there is understanding, then to weaken it is unacceptable.

We said that there are two issues on which the meeting should agree. The first is that from now on, the session should not allow countries like Iraq to refuse to sign or to use any pretext and separate itself from OPEC's decisions. From now on, either the session should not make any decisions or its decisions should be signed by all 13 members. The second is that if the organization signs an agreement, then the members should abide by it.

Of course, at this point I should mention that OPEC is a voluntary organization and the commitment, as far the countries are concerned, is a commitment of understanding among the countries. But if the main members of OPEC reach an understanding, then definitely none of the member countries will be able to violate the agreement easily. OPEC has the weapon in its hands with which it can draw the attention of one of its members to its mistakes. This was fortunately supported by all members. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] Mr Aqazadeh, after the Madrid session, you stated that on the basis of a plan suggested to OPEC, the Islamic Republic of Iran agreed to have an oil export quota equivalent to Iraq's. What is the basis for this agreement? As history shows that Iran's oil exports have always been more than Iraq's oil exports, does this not appear to be tantamount to a retreat in view of the fact that Iraq does not accept this and claims that Iraq's production should be equivalent to Iran's production?

[Aqazadeh] With my explanation now you will see that nothing new has been said. Iraq's official quota, set by the OPEC session, is 1,549,000 barrels, I mean 1,546,000 barrels. Iran's quota is 2,369,000 barrels. The difference between Iraq and us in the production ceiling is about 800,000 barrels. Our consumption is more than 1 million barrels, while Iraq's consumption is less than 300,000 barrels. Therefore, the difference in our domestic production is almost the same; that is, if we want to export our 2,369,000 barrels and subtract the 1 million barrels from this for our domestic consumption, our exports will be about 1.3 million. When 300,000 barrels that are used by Iraq for domestic consumption are subtracted from its almost 1.6 million barrels, we have 1.3 million barrels left.

In other words, if Iraq accepts its former quota, which it has not accepted, our exports will be almost equal in view of our production quota, while our production ceiling is about 800,000 barrels more than Iraq's. Actually, we told the world that, logically speaking, if Iraq accepts its official quotas, our exports will be almost equal because of the 800,000 barrel difference in domestic consumption between us and Iraq. Therefore, if OPEC decides today to increase Iraq's 1,549,000 barrels to 2 million or 2.3 million barrels, we say we should receive a quota of 700,000 or 800,000 barrels more than Iraq. Why? Because these 700,000-800,000 barrels are our domestic consumption. Let us assume that they increase Iraq's quota to 2.3 million. Then Iran's quota should be 3 million barrels.

This ratio is the same ratio that I have maintained in the past; that is, this is the ratio that should exist in the official quotas of Iraq and Iran. There would then be no change in the quotas officially granted by OPEC, but which have not been accepted by Iraq. However, why did we propound this issue at this time since this is a well-known issue in OPEC? Because we wanted to tell the world media that the quotas we want are not illogical. If we say that Iraq has been harmed, and Iran has been harmed, then incomes should be the same. But when domestic consumption in Iran is greater, there is no reason for us to accept a quota equivalent to Iraq's.

In short, I told the gentlemen at the OPEC session that as the petroleum minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran I will never sign a quota equal to that of Iraq's. What I will sign is a pro-rated quota. In other words, we told the world that if this difference in our domestic consumption with Iraq's is maintained, Iraq will not be sustaining a loss and OPEC will not be sustaining a loss.

Therefore, what we will repeat from now on, even if it is defeated during the next session, is that the policy of the government and of the [words indistinct] is not to sign a quota equal to Iraq's under any circumstance, and we consider this an oppression inflicted on our country. Also, we did not retreat in any way so far as Iraq's official quota and our official quota is concerned. We should preserve the difference of 700,000-800,000 barrels with Iraq. This is the gist of our remarks to the world and OPEC members.

[Afshar] Apparently other plans were proposed to Iraq during the Madrid session. What were these plans?

[Aqazadeh] The GCC's view—and it is natural for them to express a view in favor of Iraq—and their proposal was that Iraq should receive a quota equal to Iran's. Of course, some GCC members said that they were propounding this in order to solve the problem and would otherwise accept any quantity agreed upon by Iran and Iraq. Some GCC members said this. Some other countries propounded other side issues. However, the Iraqi petroleum minister said: I cannot give any answers now. I have to consult my government. The session ended because of the Iraqi petroleum minister's statement. In about 20 days, the strategy committee will meet again to hear Iraq's answer. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] Mr Rahgozar, as you know, during the imposed war, serious and critical damage was inflicted on our oil industries, refineries, petrochemical plants, and other parts of the infrastructure. What program have you put together for reconstructing our oil industries? Also, will the damaged installations be rebuilt in their present locations, or will they be moved further inside the country away from the border? Will foreign companies be used in this and, if so, to what extent?

[Rahgozar] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. On reconstructing oil installations and units, I should point out first of all that no serious or critical damage—as you stated—has been inflicted on the oil installations, thank God. To phrase it better, thanks to the efforts of all the oil personnel, serious damage was able to be repaired during the war. Today the truth is that we plan to start reconstruction on a couple of main units, the Abadan refinery being the most important. Most of the reconstruction was carried out during the war. As for whether or not we should rebuild in the same location, this applies only to the Abadan refinery because the rest of our installations are away from the border, more or less.

The installations now being reconstructed are in Khark, on a vast scale in Khuzestan, in Bovir Ahmadi va Kohkiluyeh Province, in Bushehr Province, and almost everywhere else where the damage, is of course, less. However, as far as Abadan is concerned, some officials and people sometimes think the Petroleum Ministry insists that reconstruction be carried out by deciding to [operate] the refinery with a lower capacity than its original capacity. This refinery was among the largest in the Mideast. The fortunate thing for the Petroleum Ministry was that even though this refinery was damaged and stopped operating during the first days of the war, it was possible to increase the output of other refineries.

The problem was solved by this increase, along with some additional imports. Even if this refinery were to operate with lower capacity today, it would definitely be in our interest because once this refinery is in operation again, it will be able to return all the investments we have made in its reconstruction within a few months. This is why we insist on rebuilding this refinery in the same location and as soon as possible. I want to repeat that this refinery will return investments within a few months. There are other units involved too, because oil, gas, and petrochemistry are closely linked. Even our normal investments are combined with our reconstruction investments. We have some pending investments or projects that were not conducted quickly during the war.

All these have to be carried out. We should inject gas into the oil wells in order to be able to extract oil. We should improve our pipelines so that we can transport oil. We should improve our refineries. We should improve the petrochemical units using gas and oil as raw materials. Probably some of the important installations we should take into consideration during reconstruction are several units in Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni, of which the Razi complex is the largest. You are also aware of the Iran-Japan project. At any rate, the Razi complex manufactures chemical fertilizer. We are reconstructing this and, God willing, this will progress rapidly. We will then start operating this largest chemical fertilizer unit in the country.

[Afshar] What sections will get priority? To the gas, oil, or petrochemical industries?

[Raghozar] As far as reconstruction is concerned, we probably have the least to do in the gas industry, with one refinery in the south which refines our gas so that it can be used in the network. We have the most work to do in the oil and petrochemical fields. As I said, the Abadan refinery is one area of great priority. There are a couple of units in the petrochemical field that are of more importance as far as reconstruction is concerned, and we have now started working on this specifically. In answer to your question on whether we will use a foreign workforce or not, we will use a mostly domestic force in our reconstruction. If there is a special case which calls for foreign assistance, we will probably use it too.

[Afshar] Mr Aqazadeh, do you have any specific view on reconstruction?

[Aqazadeh] I would like to clarify something about the Abadan refinery. In the first phase, we want to achieve 140,000 barrels; in the second phase, 380,000 barrels. As far as the first phase is concerned, we are carrying out the reconstruction of the refinery with a very small investment. Actually, the cost of its reconstruction will be equal to 1 month of its production income. If we moved the entire Abadan refinery complex and set it up someplace else—because the refinery is old, 50 to 60 years—we would have to spend as much doing that as to build an entirely new refinery.

If we want to move the 380,000 barrel capacity Abadan oil refinery and set it up someplace else, we would have to spend billions of dollars. But if we reconstruct it, then we will only need a very small amount. Therefore, even if in the future we are attacked, reconstruction will be more economical for us than investing in a project to move the refinery. This is because we will carry out the reconstruction ourselves without any help from foreigners and with our own extensive know-how.

As far as the other reconstruction issues are concerned, these were covered by Mr Rahgozar. I would like to point out that apart from the off-shore platforms in which we definitely need foreign assistance, I do not recall having asked a foreign company to help in reconstruction on land, be these refineries, or petrochemical or gas installations. I can almost definitely say that all these operations are totally in the hands of the Petroleum Ministry. However, as far as off-shore platforms are concerned, yes, we do need the help of foreign contractors because of the complicated technology involved.

Also, I want to tell you that during the war we were able to gain extremely valuable experience in reconstruction, and we will be able to reconstruct even our largest projects that have suffered damages. Because of our capacity, as pointed out by Mr Rahgozar, we will be able, God willing, to repair these damages very rapidly, and we will inform the people each time one of these installations goes on line.

[Afshar] Mr Rahgozar, as far as the Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni petrochemical complex is concerned, about 85 percent of its construction was completed before the war. However, it was seriously damaged during the war. After all, there was a war and these things happen. In view of this, what program do you have for the reconstruction of this complex? Also, in view of the fact that the regional markets are saturated with petrochemical products, will this project be profitable as there is no market for its products?

[Rahgozar] Concerning the Iran-Japan complex, which is a field I think both domestic and foreign experts are considering and a topic about which much has been said, this complex is a 50-50 partnership project between us and Japan. An agreement was signed about 15 years ago to carry out this project. After the revolution, the Revolution Council approved the continuation of this agreement. Then came the war. As you pointed out, 85 percent of the construction work had been completed before the war began. Throughout the war many discussions were held with Japan concerning the continuation of the operation, even at that juncture. However, the complex was bombed more than 15 times during the imposed war, and today what we want from Japan is a clarification of its position.

At any rate, during the meetings that we had after the cease-fire with the competent Japanese officials, our entire emphasis was on our interest in continuing our partnership and our desire to follow the agreement as it stands. The agreement foresaw—this was even before the revolution—that if the country faced war, then the implementation of the project would be suspended and all the conditions put forth in the agreement would be resumed immediately after the war ended. Today, we think that these are the conditions that prevail, and we welcome the Japanese side to come and to start work. However, I repeat that we insist on a clarification. Even if the Japanese side announces that it is not willing to continue the partnership, then it should separate from us according to the agreement. We, in turn, will also decide what to do with the project.

[Afshar] Mr Aqazadeh, the experience of OPEC sessions has shown that in order to prove the ineffectiveness of these sessions, the Western countries always drop their purchases immediately after such sessions. They purchase less than what they need in order to drop prices. Have the OPEC members adopted a serious policy to confront this? For example, I believe that after each OPEC session, the member nations reduce their production as a means of confrontation.

[Aqazadeh] Your question is more deep-rooted than this. For many years now there has been a surplus supply of oil. This surplus creates fertile grounds for violations, and becomes a problem for us. Because of the surplus supply and because of the whims of some buyers, some OPEC members do not fulfill their commitments. However, with regard to your question, I should say that

when we decide at an OPEC session to defend the price of $18 a barrel or any other price that we agree on, this means that if the demand for the set production ceiling does not exist, then we should drop our production; that is, if we want to defend the price.

In previous years, because of the atmosphere that ruled OPEC, this issue was not very carefully heeded. However, if we achieve an understanding during the next session and make a decision, I will not worry if buyers—countries or companies—reduce their purchases. We will be able to defend our price. There are a number of OPEC members who, if they approach the market with understanding, will definitely control the market. For example, Iraq, Iran, and Saudi Arabia are members of OPEC. If we understand our approach to the market, the market cannot play a major role. During past years, oil buyers made the most use of internal differences [in OPEC]. We hope that future decisions will help us to confront this issue.

You asked a question which Mr Rahgozar (?did not) answer in full. This was your question on whether we need petrochemical industries in view of the fact that the market is saturated. From the year 1360 until the end of 1364 [years beginning 21 March 1981 and ending 20 March 1986—FBIS], according to statistics published by the Ministry of Commerce, we imported $14.4 billion in petrochemical goods. This is an average of almost $2 billion a year [figure as heard]. If we set up these petrochemical plants in Iran, we will not need to import for years. We will be meeting domestic demands. There are thousands of factories that need petrochemical goods. [passage omitted]

I have repeatedly said that as long as I am in the Petroleum Ministry and, God willing, the Majlis and the government continue to help as they have up to this point, we will end our dependence on others, as far as petrochemical products are concerned, in the next 3 or 4 years. I believe that with the projects that we now have and with the Iran-Japan complex, we will completely end our dependence on others as far as petrochemical products, chemical fertilizers, and liquid gas are concerned. The money we now spend—say $2 or $2.5 billion—to import petrochemical products, liquid gas, and chemical fertilizers, will be free to invest in other areas. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] Mr Aqazadeh, you stated in your remarks that the reason for the drop in world oil prices stems not from consumer countries but from the absence of understanding among OPEC members. In view of the fact that the interests of OPEC members lie in selling oil and in their income from this, how is it that there is an absence of understanding? What is obstructing this understanding?

[Aqazadeh] Of course, I should state that we cannot say that the consumer countries are completely ineffective. They definitely have an impact with the methods they adopt. However, they exploit our differences, our internal differences. There are various reasons for internal differences. The reasoning of some OPEC countries is that a lower price increases the demand of OPEC oil. Pressuring Iran in the past in order to accept the cease-fire and now to accept a quota equivalent to that of Iraq [is another method]. I would like to state clearly that because of our position and logic and because of the right that we consider ours, we cannot accept a quota equal to that of Iraq because of reasons that I explained earlier.

Pressures on us will be increased if we do not agree. Oil prices may drop even more than they have. But we think that if we stand on these principles, we can gain our rights ultimately and this crisis cannot last for long. One example is the situation in Algeria, and it is possible that there may be other countries with similar problems. Some of the OPEC ministers who spoke during this session spoke about disorder. At any rate, we tell the people that they should tolerate this situation and even this price reduction at this juncture, but that we will resolve this (?issue) once and for all.

If we continue this steadfastness, we will reach an understanding in OPEC in the future which will end such issues, make OPEC an organization whose statements and decisions will gain credibility, and will grant countries the opportunity (?to solve) problems with more understanding. At any rate, the main motive behind the absence of understanding at present is to pressure us to accept this quota. However, I think that later on this understanding will be created in view of the new conditions in the region.

[Afshar] Mr Aqazadeh, in view of the fact that one of the decisions adopted by the cabinet yesterday was that the Petroleum Ministry should pursue the Islamic Republic's oil policies and you say that we should be steadfast in our position, do you think that prices will continue to decline as a result of our steadfastness?

[Aqazadeh] I think they will drop temporarily. I explained this in full during yesterday's cabinet meeting. As I stated previously: We will not sign anything so long as the difference in domestic consumption between Iran and Iraq is not accepted by OPEC. This position was approved by the cabinet, which decided that we will not accept, for as long as necessary, any equivalence of quotas. The government approved what I said at the OPEC session, that our quota with regard to Iraq should at least cover the difference in our domestic consumption.

[Afshar] Mr Aqazadeh, during your remarks you stated that OPEC previously pressured Iran to accept Resolution No 598 and that now pressure is being applied to accept a quota equal to that of Iraq's. After the Madrid session, you gave an interview in which you said the atmosphere ruling OPEC is a political one, from which we should try to extract OPEC. How can a non-political atmosphere be achieved?

[Aqazadeh] In my opinion, the only issue pending in OPEC today is the Iran-Iraq quota. We will reach an understanding on the other issues in the organization. If we

can deal with this issue, I think from now on we will achieve understanding. On the whole, within the framework of this understanding, the atmosphere ruling OPEC, which usually stemmed from the regional situation, the war situation, and the differences among regional nations, will be overcome. The process now is one of regional understanding, and I think we will reach an understanding with the GCC, and that the possibilities for greater cooperation in the future have improved. This outlook was quite obvious during the recent session.

However, now it is the issue of Iraq insisting on its achieving a quota equal to ours. What I mean by absence of understanding is, specifically, Iraq's desire to seize this opportunity to pressure OPEC in order to achieve a quota equal to ours. I would like to tell you that during the discussions of the long-term strategy committee and pricing committee, among the eight countries, almost the absolute majority—both Arab and non-Arab countries—said that if we reach an agreement with Iraq, we have no problems. They did not show great sensitivity toward a quota equal with Iraq's. What they said was: What we want is to reach an understanding. At the present juncture, most of the pressure is from Iraq to achieve a quota equivalent to ours. If this issue is resolved, a spirit of understanding will rule the session. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] Mr Aqazadeh, under the conditions of war some oil products, such as gas, diesel fuel, and oil, were rationed, and their prices increased. In view of the fact that we now have a cease-fire and the war situation has changed, will we witness a change in the price of these products or in the rationing?

[Aqazadeh] I should tell the dear viewers that the volume of our oil distribution, even in spite of the rationing, is very high. We have the highest domestic consumption of any country in OPEC. Our daily distribution of four oil products is nearly 130 million litres. Of course, after the situation returns to normal and the Abadan refinery becomes operational, the conditions will become more favorable for some of the rationing to be lifted. Our intention is to create more facilities for the people as far as fuel is concerned. Currently, apart from the Abadan refinery, the problems faced by all the refineries have been resolved and they are working at full capacity. There are the imports too.

Our intent is to make the utmost effort and pass this winter season with as few problems for the people as possible. God willing, once we are through this winter season we will review the situation of some of the oil products for next year. As for prices, our general policy is not aimed at increasing prices. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] I thank you, dear brothers, for your participation in the political roundtable discussion. We hope to be able to host you in future programs too. Dear viewers, in conclusion I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate you on Unity Week and on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the prophet of Islam. I bid you farewell together with the participants in this program, Messrs Aqazadeh and Rahgozar, and with my other colleagues in the political group of the second network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Good night.

Commentary on Upcoming Elections in Pakistan

NC2610114788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Central News Unit research group commentary: "Pakistan and Current Political Developments on the Eve of the Country's General Elections"]

[Excerpts] The political moves presently underway in Pakistan—which is anticipating the upcoming parliamentary elections on 16 November, the 25th of the month of Aban—are extremely active these days. Political parties are involved in conspicuous activity in the election campaign and are striving for a role in the country's political future.

According to the Central News Unit correspondent in Islamabad, with the approach of the general elections in Pakistan, differences among parties have become more marked and in many areas clashes have taken place between rival groups. On the other hand, the Pakistan 'ulema and religious leaders in their speeches are asking people all over Pakistan to discard their differences so that the solidarity of the people is not disrupted by unrest.

Acting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has also asked the people of the country to muster all their efforts for free and healthy elections. These elections will be the first to allow the participation of political parties since 1977 when Ziaul Haq took over in Pakistan. According to political experts, it will be a momentous step toward the spread of democracy in the country. [passage omitted]

The campaigning by political parties on the eve of the general elections in Pakistan is picking up speed, indicating that in the event of their success, these parties are determined to play a major role in the trend toward democracy in the country, a process which seems to be treading a suitable path as a result of an unprecedented concurrence between the political and military authorities.

Iraqi Government To Free 25 POW's 30 Oct

LD2810161588 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 28, IRNA—48 hours after releasing 72 Iraqi disabled POW's by the Islamic Republic, the Iraqi Ba'thist regime declared that it will release 25 disabled Iranian POW's on Sunday, October 30.

According to the name-list announced by the Iraqi Government, eight out of the 25 are civilian prisoners.

In all, 775 disabled Iraqi POW's have thus far been unilaterally released by the Islamic Republic against 620 disabled Iranians released by the Iraqi Ba'thist regime which group includes 202 combatants and 418 civilians.

200 Arrested in Iraq's Al-Sulaymaniyah Bazaar

LD2710110488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Iraqi security forces, in retaliation for the recent murder of an Army officer, arrested 200 people in Al-Sulaymaniyah bazaar. They also looted and destroyed many shops.

IRNA, quoting informed Kurdish sources, reports that a few days ago an Iraqi officer was killed in Al-Sulaymaniyah bazaar. Subsequently, the Iraqi forces began their suppression of the shopkeepers in the bazaar. Al-Sulaymaniyah, in northern Iraq, has always been a base for Kurdish operations against the Iraqi regime.

Iraqi Kurds Foil Ba'thist Attack Near Turkey

LD2710164988 Tehran IRNA in English 1617 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] London, Oct. 27 IRNA—Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) has said it has beaten back a landing of Ba'thist troops behind its lines in the Al-'Amadiyah District close to the Turkish border.

The attack occurred on October 25, when several Iraqi transport and helicopter gunships were used to ferry an Army battalion in an assault on a Kurdish guerrilla base.

In a statement released in London, the KDP said that after heavy fighting with the airborne force the attempt was foiled, with the Iraqis ferrying back casualties in their helicopters. It estimated 20 Iraqi soldiers had been killed and many more wounded.

Earlier it reported Kurdish attack on an Iraqi security car in the city centre of Kirkuk on October 9, where two high ranking officers Captain Muhammad Mattar and Major Sa'd Jabir were shot dead. Two days later another military intelligence car was ambushed on the Tikrit-Kirkuk highway, killing an unidentified Army officer and his driver.

The increased Kurdish operations in the oil-rich Kirkuk region led to renewed reports that the Iraqi regime was resorting to the use of chemical weapons.

On October 11 Iraqi warplanes attacked Shaykh-Bizini [placename as received], 15 miles from Kirkuk city, with poison gases and three days later further bombarded Hammea [placename as received]. Chemrezan [placename as received] in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province was also said to have been chemically attacked. Kirkuk is a former Kurdish area that Iraq has been systematically trying to "Arabicise" since the Ba'thist regime seized power in Baghdad in 1968 and more recently after agreeing to a ceasefire in its war against Iran, has intensified an extermination programme.

4 Nov Named Anti-Arrogance Campaign Day

LD2710224088 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 27 OCT 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 27, IRNA—The Majlis today approved a two-star precedence of a bill calling for Aban 13 (Nov. 4) to be declared as the national day of campaign against global arrogance, once it is passed.

During the session Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani heard deputies debating for and against the bill. The precedence was approved by the majority of deputies.

Aban 13 marks the arrest of Imam Khomeyni by the regime of the defunct shah, which led to the exile of the leader of Islamic Revolution to Turkey in 1963.

It also commemorates the take-over of the U.S. espionage den (former embassy) in Tehran in 1979 by Muslim students following Imam Khomeyni's path.

3 Television Stations Established in Esfahan

NC2810075188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] On the auspicious occasion of the birth anniversary of the holy prophet, God's peace be upon him, and the birth anniversary of Imam Ja'far Sadeq, peace be upon him, three television stations were installed in Esfahan and became operational.

According to the Central News Unit, these stations, which were set up by the maintenance and repair unit for television transmitters in Esfahan and the network expansion unit, have a total strength of 65 watts and can be viewed on Channel 8 in Abadeh, Channel 50 UHF in District 1 of Yazd, and on Channel 3 in Deheq and Alavijeh.

Bhutan

Indian President Inaugurates Electricity Project

BK2110131888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, today inaugurated the prestigious Indo-Bhutanese joint venture—the 336 megawatts Chuka Hydel [hydroelectric] project in Bhutan. The 244 crore rupee project on the Wong Chu River has been designed and built with full Indian technical and financial assistance.

All-India Radio's special correspondent Deva Prasad Das reports that the waters of the river are diverted through a mountain tunnel to an underground powerhouse for generating electricity. An engineering marvel,

the project constitutes Asia's largest underground powerhouse. The first turbine was commissioned in September 1986 and the fourth and the last in August this year. The surplus power from the project is supplied to the eastern states in India.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Venkataraman described the project as a dynamic symbol of trust and cooperation between the two countries. He hoped that in future both the governments will work to identify and implement similar projects of mutual benefit.

In his address, the Bhutan king, Jigme Singye Wangchuk, said the project could not have been undertaken if India had not come forward with men, material, and money. The president has since returned to New Delhi at the end of his 4-day state visit to Bhutan.

Sri Lanka

'At Least 19' Killed in Latest Violence

BK2710141288 Hong Kong AFP in English 1404 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Colombo, Oct 27 (AFP)-At least 19 people, including three Tamil separatist guerrillas and a communist leader, have died in fresh violence in Sri Lanka, officials here said Thursday.

Gunmen of the anti-government Sinhalese militant Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP or People's Liberation Front) killed a Communist Party organiser in southern Matara District Thursday, police said.

They said JVP men also shot dead 10 other people, most of them members of the ruling United National Party, in neighbouring villages and in Dematagoda, near the capital, since Wednesday.

The violence came as a one-week government-declared unilateral truce with the JVP came to a close without results.

President Junius Jayewardene was scheduled to have talks with seven opposition parties later Thursday to discuss the violence.

Official sources said the government did not want to make the end of the ceasefire an issue and it was not immediately clear if military operations against the JVP resumed Thursday.

The JVP is opposed to a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end the bloody Tamil separatist campaign and under which New Delhi has some 49,000 troops in the island's north and east.

Indian soldiers shot dead three fighters of the most powerful rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), in separate gunbattles in the northwestern region and northeastern area Wednesday, officials said.

They said the bodies of four Moslem men were also found Thursday.

The victims had been abducted by suspected Tamil rebels a few days ago, the officials said.

In northern Jaffna Peninsula, unidentified gunmen Wednesday shot dead a prominent Tamil leader, Raja Shankar, president of the Tenamarachchi Citizen's Committee and a known sympathiser of the LTTE, a defense official said.

The LTTE is one of five major Tamil separatist groups which initially accepted the peace plan, but later repudiated it prompting a major Indian offensive last October to disarm the group.

Since then, over 635 Indian soldiers and more than 2,000 suspected Tamil rebels have died in bitter fighting.

Suspension of Operations Against JVP Extended

BK2810034488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government has extended the suspension of operations against the subversive elements in the south after Sunday [30 October] morning. The suspension, which was announced on the 20th of this month for a week expired yesterday. It has now been extended after President Jayewardene had a second round of discussions with seven opposition party leaders in Colombo.

The national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, told our correspondent this morning that the situation will be reviewed on Sunday, when the Sri Lankan president is scheduled to meet the opposition leaders again for further discussions.

It may be recalled that the Sri Lankan president, in his letter to the Buddhist leadership last Wednesday, had agreed to accept the major opposition demands provided the subversive Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [People's Liberation Front] group in the south responds positively to come back to the democratic process. The opposition demands included the dissolution of Parliament and appointment of a caretaker government to oversee presidential and parliamentary elections.